Michigan Section
Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER

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

Contents

Reports from the Board 2
- Chair 2
- Statement on Black Lives . . 3
- Past Chair 4
- Four-Year-College Vice-Chair 5
- Section Representative . . . 5
- Secretary-Treasurer 7
- Inst. and Sustaining Members 8

Campus News 8

Distinguished Teaching Award 15

Distinguished Service Award 15

Section Officer Nominations 16

DTA Nominations 16

Upcoming Meetings 17

Mathematical Contest News 17
- AMC 10 and 12 Results . . 17

Committees & Appointments 18

Calendar of Events 19

In This Issue

Chair's Report 2
Victor Piercey (Ferris State U) addresses the COVID-19 pandemic, and our section's statement on Black lives.

Michigan MAA Statement on Black Lives . . . 3
The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America stands in solidarity with those protesting against racial injustice.

Past Chair's Report 4
Nancy Colwell (SVSU) tells us about the rollout of MAA Connect.

Four-Year-College Vice-Chair's Report 5
Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU) discusses the status of our postponed 2020 section meeting.

Section Representative's Report 5
Mark Bollman (Albion) gives us an update on the MAA Congress meeting and highlights opportunities to serve the MAA at the national level.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report 7
Ken Schilling (UM-Flint) reports on the financial situation and membership of our section.

Call for Teaching Award Nominations 16
Nominate an outstanding instructor for the Michigan Section–MAA 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award. Nominations are due December 14, 2020.

Volunteer to Serve the Section 16
There are volunteer positions with the section that need to be filled. Volunteer or nominate someone to help out our local mathematicians!

Reports from the Executive Board

Chair's Report

Victor Piercey
(Ferris State U)
<victorpiercey@ferris.edu>

It has been quite a year so far. Across the state, you have made heroic efforts to limit interruptions to student learning in Michigan during the pandemic. For many of us, switching to remote learning, especially with such short notice, was a daunting task. Yet you were up to it. You met online with faculty from around the country in conversations and workshops to facilitate online lecturing, class discussions, and group work facilitation. You spent countless hours reaching out to students and adapting to their needs. You learned how to use new technologies for both direct and supplemental learning. Your work has made me optimistic about the future.

Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic also interrupted much of our professional activity outside of our teaching. The section meeting had to be postponed to next year. MathFest had to be canceled. Many other conferences are moving online. And we lost daily contact with colleagues whose conversations help us to thrive.

But the pandemic has also brought out the best of us. As an illustration, a three-day experience consisting of an inquiry-based learning and a mastery grading workshop was moved online. Organizers of the inquiry-based learning workshop from the Alliance for Michigan IBL (Francesca Gandini, Kalamazoo C., Danielle Champney, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and Nina White, UM-AA) and the organizers of the mastery grading conference (David Clark, GVSU, Sharona Krinsky, Cal State U.-LA, Kate Owens, College of Charleston, and Robert Talbert, GVSU) worked tirelessly to master the use of online resources such as breakout rooms in Zoom and backchannels in Slack in order to make these events a success. I have heard nothing but praise from those who attended one or both of these conferences.

The pandemic is not the only crisis we are facing. Race relations, and our reckoning with our history, has reached a fever pitch. I am hopeful that we are at a moment where real change can happen, and that this change can filter into our profession and our classrooms. The executive board of our section has approved a statement on Black lives. The statement goes beyond expressing solidarity and offers suggestions for how you can act within your sphere of influence. The list of suggestions is just a sample, and we hope that as a section we can expand this list through sharing and conversation. You can find the statement on the following page.

In order to support our conversations on issues of racial equity, online pedagogy, and anything else that impacts our professional world, the section has a new forum through the MAA's new resource MAA Connect. If you want to add another book recommendation about equitable teaching practices, or are aware of an exciting workshop on facilitating a flipped classroom with remote learning, share it in MAA Connect! This new tool enables us to share ideas and maintain conversations across the section in a way that we have not been able to do via email, so I encourage you to try it out.

As I am writing, Michigan is doing well with regard to COVID-19 and is on the road to containment. It is unclear whether this trend will continue, but no matter what is in store for us, I am hopeful and inspired by all of the work you have done and the sense of community you have fostered in our section. I hope to be able to see you in person soon.

Back to Contents

Michigan MAA Statement on Black Lives

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America stands in solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter and with those protesting racial injustice. Racial injustice is not limited to policing. Systemic racism permeates all of our society, and mathematics teaching and research are not immune. We stand united in calling for the systems of racism and oppression to be dismantled. One year is too long, and four centuries is horrifying.

If you are wondering what you can do within your sphere of influence to fight for justice, here are some suggestions:

Make Your Classrooms Inclusive

1. Start with your own implicit biases.
   - Read Blindspot: Hidden Biases of Good People <blindspot.fas.harvard.edu/Book>.
   - Take implicit bias tests <implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>.
   - Commit to overcoming your implicit biases both in the classroom and out.
2. Incorporate social justice into your mathematics teaching.
   As a good first step, consult Gizem Karaali and Lily Khadjavi's excellent volume of easy-to-adopt modules Mathematics for Social Justice: Resources for the College Classroom <amazon.com/Mathematics-Social-Justice-Resources-Classroom/dp/1470449269>.
   A second volume is due out by the end of this year or early next year.
3. Read the literature about the connections between pedagogy and equity. For example, you could read the literature on culturally responsive pedagogy. Rubel and Chu's 2012 article, "Reinscribing Urban: Teaching High School Mathematics in Low-Income, Urban Communities of Color" <researchgate.net/publication/257583826_Reinscribing_urban_Teaching_high_school_mathematics_in_low_income_urban_communities_of_color>, contains a nice introduction to a framework for culturally responsive pedagogy and cites foundational work on the subject.

Educate Yourself And Others

Read, organize a reading group, or participate in a reading group. Some books to think about are:

1. Books on race and ethnicity in mathematics
   - Rehumanizing Mathematics for Black, Indigenous, and Latinx Students <amazon.com/Annual-Perspectives-Mathematics-Education-2018/dp/1680540092>
   - Interrogating Whiteness and Relinquishing Power: White Faculty's Commitment to Racial Consciousness in STEM Classrooms <amazon.com/Interrogating-Whiteness-Relinquishing-Power-Consciousness-ebook/dp/B07661HYY5>
2. General books on teaching equitably
   - Becoming a Student-Ready College: A New Culture of Leadership for Student Success <amazon.com/Becoming-Student-Ready-College-Culture-Leadership/dp/1119119510>
3. General books on race
   - White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism <amazon.com/White-Fragility-People-About-Racism/dp/0807047414>
   - How to Be an Anti-Racist <amazon.com/How-Be-Antiracist-Ibram-Kendi/dp/0525509283>

Back to Contents

Join and Donate to Organizations

There are several organizations dedicated to racial justice and equity within the mathematics community. Join them, donate to them, and convince your administrators to purchase institutional memberships.

Some of these organizations are:

1. National Association of Mathematics
   <nam-math.org>
2. Association for Women in Mathematics
   <awm-math.org>
3. TODOS: Mathematics for All
   <todos-math.org>
4. Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)
   <sacnas.org>
5. American Indian Science and Engineering Society
   <aises.org>
6. Spectra: The Association for LGBT Mathematicians
   <lgbtmath.org>
7. Math Alliance
   <mathalliance.org/welcome>

In addition, there are organizations dedicated to using data analysis to fight for racial justice. One such organization is Data for Black Lives <d4bl.org>, to which you can join and donate.

Finally, you can join or donate to math-adjacent professional societies dedicated to justice.

Many of our suggestions are not easy, but doing the right thing is often difficult. Reach out to your colleagues, including those in the section and in the MAA. As a community, we can make the future better than the past.

Past Chair's Report

Nancy Colwell (SVSU)
<nccolwel@svsu.edu>

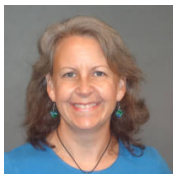
Greetings to all members of the Michigan Section–MAA. I hope you are all well and staying healthy.

I am excited to announce the rollout of MAA Connect this past winter from the MAA. MAA Connect is the new online platform for members to connect and collaborate with each other. We can share ideas, ask questions, and post announcements to our section. Important updates regarding activities and events in our section can be shared through MAA Connect. You can access MAA Connect through the MAA webpage or at <connect.maa.org> using your member login. I think this will be a wonderful tool for us to stay connected to each other, particularly in these physically-distanced times.

On the subject of staying connected, now is the time to think of getting involved in the Michigan Section of the MAA. There are many roles to fill in our section, from chair to serving on the MMPC exam committee or the program committee. If you would like to serve in one of these roles, let a member of the executive committee know. We will be very grateful. We are also very grateful to all of our wonderful members who continue to participate in all of the ways that you do.

Back to Contents

Four-Year-College Vice-Chair's Report



Amy Shell-Gellasch
(EMU)
<ashellge@emich.edu>

As you are now well aware, our spring section meeting, which was scheduled to be held at Grand Valley State University on April 3rd and 4th, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We plan to host it a year from now, in April 2021, instead, though of course this plan must also remain tentative.

As more information is known, the meeting website at <gvsu.edu/mism2020/> will be updated. If you have questions or would like to volunteer at the meeting, please contact Amy Shell-Gellasch <ashellge@emich.edu>.

Section Representative's Report

Mark Bollman
(Albion C)
<mbollman@albion.edu>

One thing that I have learned while serving on the executive committee is that the Michigan Section is fortunate to have so many members who are willing to step up and serve the section.

Recently, I learned from the Washington office that 25 of our section members are serving the MAA at the national level through membership on the Association's committees. I was surprised to see the complete list — but perhaps I shouldn't have been. Much of the vital work of the MAA is done through its committees, and it is great to know that many of our Michigan colleagues have stepped up to take an active role in shaping our collective future.

The MAA Committee on Committees and Councils is currently looking for members to fill openings on a number of committees. I invite you to consider nominating yourself or a colleague for membership on a national committee. A list of committees with openings is online at <maa.org/node/94705/>, and the nomination form may be found online at <surveymonkey.com/r/MAAcommitteesuggestions>.

The next meeting of the Congress of the MAA will be held remotely – as MathFest, which was scheduled to be held in Philadelphia, has been canceled due to the pandemic. See <https://www.maa.org/meetings/mathfest> for details. In preparation for three days of virtual meetings, and as the Congress looks toward the long-term future of our organization, I am especially interested this summer in hearing your suggestions and comments on what our direction (both locally and nationally) should be. Please feel free to reach out to me (mbollman@albion.edu) to share your thoughts on the section's and the MAA's programs.

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>.

Back to Contents

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 for the 2019–2020 academic year may still be submitted online via the Send Money feature of PayPal. (Log in to your account, Select Send & Request, and specify `MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com` as the address of the recipient).

Please provide the following information in the notes for your payment.

Name _____
Institution _____
Mailing address _____
_____
Email address _____

Membership categories:

- ☐ $15 regular dues
- ☐ $30 sustaining membership
- ☐ $40 small institution dues
- ☐ $70 large institution dues

Due to the CoViD-19 pandemic, PayPal is the preferred method of payment. If you need to pay in a different way, please contact Ken Schilling <ksch@umich.edu> to make arrangements.

ALEKS is an adaptive learning platform that delivers a dynamic cycle of learning and assessment encouraging better preparation, increased motivation, and improved knowledge retention for all students. In addition to the personalized path, **ALEKS with Enhanced Homework** is another opportunity to support your teaching style or your course format.

You can now assign algorithmic textbook questions from several McGraw Hill Math and Statistics author brands. You have control of the learning experience with your blend of adaptive and non- adaptive assignments. Assign ALEKS with Enhanced Homework to support:

- **Test preparation**
- **Application of skills**
- **Exposure to concepts not requiring mastery**

ALEKS gives you ultimate flexibility to structure **your course, your way** for maximum learning.

Back to Contents

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Ken Schilling
(UM-Flint)
<ksch@umich.edu>

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in a voluntary section dues payment for 2019–2020. As of February, there were 71 dues-paying members, including 51 sustaining members who have paid dues of $30 or more. The list of sustaining members can be found on the following page. I would also like to thank **William Jackson** for his continued support of the Ron Mosier Award as a supplement to his voluntary dues. His contribution will guarantee that the section can continue to recognize the outstanding student talk at the Annual Meeting.

In addition, we now have 15 institutional members. This list can also be found on the next page. If your institution is not listed, you might want to remind your department chair to attend to this matter. The membership form can be found on the preceding page.

Last year at the same time, there were 73 dues-paying individual members, including 45 sustaining members, and 16 institutional members, so our membership is steady. As of February, the Michigan Section's bank balance was $6670.93, pending newsletter advertising revenue and an MAA subvention. We continue to have a good balance of income and expenses, and the section remains in sound financial shape. If you have any questions regarding the section's finances, please feel free to contact me.

Back to Contents

Institutional and Sustaining Members

Individual Sustaining Members, 2020

- Edward Aboufadel
- Ricardo Alfaro
- Steven Althoen
- Davis Austin
- Larry Beauchamp
- Matt Boelkins
- Mary Bragg
- Robert Bruner
- Joseph Buckley
- Robert Chaffer
- David Clark
- Nancy Colwell
- John Dwyer
- Paul Eenigenburg
- Ruth Favro
- Richard Fleming
- Daniel Frohardt
- R. Kent Gilbert
- Sidney Graham
- Jerrold Grossman
- Konrad Heuvers
- Margret Hoft
- William Jackson[1]
- Gerald Janusz
- Michael Jones
- Lauren Keough
- William Keith
- John Kiltinen
- Sang Lee
- Frances Lichtman
- Laura McLeman
- Jack Miller
- Ed Moylan
- Robert Myers
- Jonathan Oaks
- Walter Parry
- Paul Pearson
- Tim Pennings
- John Petro
- Norman Richert
- Bruce Sagan
- Kenneth Schilling
- Steven Schlicker
- Amy Shell-Gellasch
- Larry Smyrski
- Elliot Tanis
- Gerard Venema
- Sylvia Verdonk
- Bette Warren
- Howard Whitston
- Matthew Wyneken

Institutional Members, 2019

- Albion C
- Central Michigan U
- Glen Oaks CC
- Grand Valley SU
- Hope C
- Kalamazoo C
- Michigan Tech. U
- Oakland U
- Olivet C
- Saginaw Valley SU
- UM-Ann Arbor
- UM-Dearborn
- UM-Flint
- Schoolcraft C
- Washtenaw CC
- Western Mich. U

Campus News

Adrian College

Elizabeth Lamprecht <elamprecht@adrian.edu>

Timothy Clark's paper, "On the Topological Characterization of Gestures in a Convenient Category of Spaces", has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Mathematics and Music*.

Albion College

Mark Bollman <mbollman@albion.edu>

April Grow has joined the department as a full-time adjunct instructor of mathematics.

[1] + $100 for Ron Mosier fund.

Back to Contents

Andrews University

Lynelle Weldon <weldon@andrews.edu>

As part of the Dr. Robert E. Kingman Lecture Series, the Andrews University Department of Mathematics is pleased to announce that Dr. **Eugenia Cheng** will be delivering a talk at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 2020, on the Andrews University campus. The public is welcome to attend.[2]

Born in the U.K., Dr. Cheng is an accomplished chef, pianist, writer, and mathematician. As a mathematician, she is interested in higher-dimensional category theory and has published more than a dozen research articles in academic journals. As serious as she is about her scholarship, she is equally as passionate about explaining mathematics to non-mathematicians and applying logic to the difficult issues we face in modern life. Dr. Cheng is perhaps best known for her book *How to Bake Pi: An Edible Exploration of the Mathematics of Mathematics*, published in 2015, but other books include *Beyond Infinity: An Expedition to the Outer Limits of Mathematics* in 2017, *The Art of Logic: The Art of Logic in an Illogical World* in 2018, and her latest book, $X+Y$*: A Mathematician's Manifesto for Rethinking Gender*, which came out this year. More information is available at <andrews.edu/services/research/research_events/>.

Graduate studies at

CMU

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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
mthgrad@cmich.edu
se.cmich.edu/mth

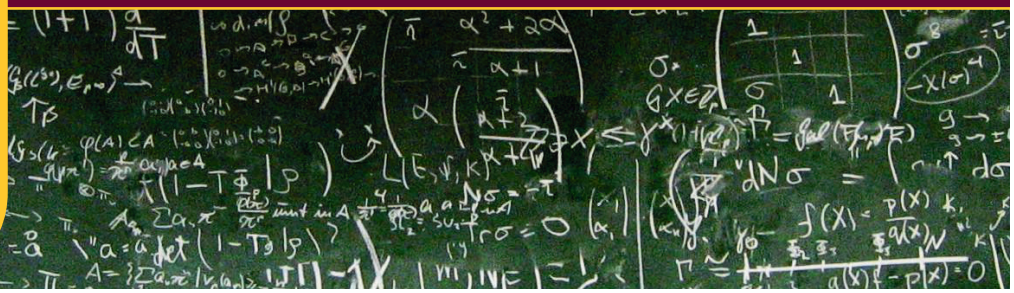
CMU, an AA/EO institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see https://www.cmich.edu/aaeo).

Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences

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, approximation theory, combinatorics, complex analysis, computational mathematics, differential geometry, ethnomathematics, fluid dynamics, functional analysis, mathematical biology, mathematics education, operator theory, and representation theory.

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.



[2]**Editors' note:** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event should now be considered tentative.

Back to Contents

Calvin University

John Ferdinands <ferd@calvin.edu>

Dave Klanderman was scheduled to give a plenary address entitled "Mathematics through the Eyes of Faith" at a conference in Kyiv, Ukraine on March 24–26, 2020. The name of the conference is "Teaching with God: Innovative Approaches to Teaching Science and other School Subjects", and it is sponsored by the International Alliance for the Development of Christian Education (ICADE). He will also lead a workshop entitled "The Kuyers Mathematics Curriculum". The audience for the conference will be approximately 400 Christian math and science teachers at the elementary, middle and secondary school levels, along with some school administrators, university faculty members, and church leaders.

Eastern Michigan University

Amy Shell-Gellasch <ashellge@umich.edu>

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Eastern Michigan University was scheduled to host the 2020 Machine Learning Conference on Saturday, March 28, 2020, 9am–4 p.m. The conference is dedicated to machine learning applications, and is an excellent platform to share your work in AI with the professional community, as well as getting informed with the latest AI research topics and technologies.

Stephanie Casey will serve as President-Elect of the Michigan Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators beginning March 21, 2020.

Grand Valley State University

Robert Talbert <albertr@mail.gvsu.edu>

GVSU hosted the first-ever conference on Mastery Grading (also known as standards-based grading) on June 5–6, 2020. The conference focused on using mastery grading in higher education mathematics instruction. Originally scheduled to be held in person, it was instead held virtually.

In particular, the mastery grading workshop brought together new and experienced mastery grading practitioners to create a community of practice, created a space for participants to make connections with each other, and helped to build a strong and supportive mastery grading community that will extend beyond the workshop. Participants learned the "nuts and bolts" of mastery grading, exchanged ideas with others, began planning their own mastery-graded classes in a supportive atmosphere, and made contacts that will support their continued work. Experienced practitioners discovered new approaches to mastery grading, made new connections, and shared their ideas and experience with the community.

For more information on mastery grading and the conference, visit <masterygrading.com/>.

Back to Contents

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

Hope College

Todd Swanson <swansont@hope.edu>

Chuck Cusack was promoted to professor. **Yew-Meng Koh** was promoted to associate professor and received tenure.

At the recent Joint Mathematics Meetings, students **Cole Persch** and **Eric Leu** each received an Outstanding Poster Recognition, and student **Jack Krebsbach** received an Honorable Mention.

Kalamazoo College

Eric Nordmoe <eric.nordmoe@kzoo.edu>

The Mathematics Department at Kalamazoo College is pleased to welcome two new visiting faculty members: **Francesca Gandini**, who completed her PhD at the University of Michigan in 2019, and **Duong Nguyen**, who completed her PhD in 2019 at the University of Houston.

Back to Contents

Lansing Community College

Homa Ghaussi Mujtaba <ghaussih@lcc.edu>

We are excited to host the 2021 MichMATYC Spring Conference at Lansing Community College, on April 9–10.

The event will run at our outstanding Downtown Campus, which has newly renovated buildings, state-of-the-art conference rooms, and beautiful landscapes and outdoor sculptures. The conference theme is "Mathematics Support and Success: A Vision for the Future". We hope you consider attending and even presenting at the conference. Proposals for presentations are being accepted through February 1, 2021 at the conference web site, <michmatyc.org/upcoming/michmatyc-2020>.

For additional information, please contact the Conference Planning Team leader, Maria Johnson <johns257@star.lcc.edu>.

Lawrence Technological University

Ruth Favro <favro@ltu.edu> and Bruce Pell <bpell@ltu.edu>

We welcome the new Dean of Arts & Sciences, **Srini Kambhampati**, who joined us last fall.

Our Math and Computer Science Seminar speakers this fall were **Matthew Johnston** and **Bruce Pell**; this Spring features **Destiny Anyaiwe**, **Michael Dabkowski** (UM-Dearborn), and **Patrick Nelson**.

The annual Cisler Lecture in Arts & Sciences was scheduled to be held March 24, at 7:00 p.m, to be given by **Gilbert S. Omenn** from the University of Michigan. His talk is titled "Grand Challenges and Great Opportunities in Science, Technology and Public Policy".

Paula Lauren and **Destiny Anyaiwe** attended the AMS mini-conference in Washington DC on the importance of mathematics to the new offerings in computational and quantitative areas. The 21st Robofest World Championships will be held on campus in mid-May.

The LTU Math Club has joined with the Society of Physics Students in offering physics and math tutoring sessions. November Geek Week featured talks by student **Michael DiFranco** on Spherical and Hyperbolic Space, and Michael Dabkowski on the LSW Equation. In the fall, our students participated in the MATH Challenge (5 teams), SCUDEM (1 team), and the Putnam Exam, and they are looking forward to the Mathematical Contest in Modeling (3 teams) and the Lower Michigan Math Competition.

Oakland University

Daniel Steffy <steffy@oakland.edu>

Oakland University was scheduled to host the 2020 IMS/ASA spring research conference in statistics from May 20–22, 2020, but the conference was canceled due to the pandemic. More information can be found at <files.oakland.edu/users/qu/web/SRC2020.html>.

The annual Summer Mathematics Institute for talented local high school students for the summer of 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic, with the hope to run again in 2021.

Back to Contents

Schoolcraft College

Randy Schwartz <rschwart@schoolcraft.edu>

Following a national search last summer, Schoolcraft instructors **Heather House** and **Katy Shields** were promoted from part-time to full-time status, effective beginning the Winter 2020 semester.

Professor and department chair **Audrey Mingela** has been named to receive an Excellence Award from the Phoenix, AZ-based League for Innovation in the Community College. The awards celebrate outstanding contributions and leadership by community college faculty. Professor Mingela has been a full-time faculty member at Schoolcraft since 2000 and has served as department chair since 2015.

Professor **Brad Stetson** has received the 2020 Edfinity Award from the Michigan Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (MichMATYC). This $300, NSF-funded award recognizes substantial efforts in providing high-quality homework and/or course materials that are "an innovative alternative to expensive commercial publisher offerings — one that bears the potential for increasing equitable access at scale."

Student **James Reddick** is president of the Math and Physics Club this winter. The club hosts the annual Student Math League Contest, in which Schoolcraft had a great showing in Round 1 last fall. Led by student **Srihari Ganesh**, the team landed in a three-way tie for third place out of more than 150 teams from community colleges across the country. Last year, the school placed fifth nationally. Another effort birthed within the club was the Alka-Rocket Team, where students design, build, and launch a small rocket powered by carbon dioxide gas. The Schoolcraft team was one of five finalists competing for the $30,000 grand prize at Cape Canaveral last fall, and the only community college among the five college teams.

Back to Contents

University of Detroit Mercy

Jeffrey Boats <boatsjj@udmercy.edu>

Lazaros Kikas is the new chair of the Mathematics Department at UDM. **Dawn Archey** is associate chair.

University of Michigan–Flint

Mehrdad Simkani <simkani@umich.edu>

Shu-Yi Tu will be on sabbatical during the fall of 2020.

This year, the Mathematics Department hosted a Family Math at the Market event on February 15, from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. at the Flint Farmers Market. The 53rd Math Field Day was held on Monday, March 2.

The department will be offering two new concentrations, Data Science, and Mathematics for Social Interaction, plus a new minor in Mathematics for Data Science, to start in the fall of 2020.

Ricardo Alfaro and **Cameron McLeman** took seven students to the joint meetings in January.

Wayne State University

Daniel Drucker <ddrucker@wayne.edu>

Professor **Robert Bruner** is a visiting professor at the Department of Mathematics, KTH Royal Institute Technology, Stockholm during the Winter 2020 semester. Professor **Daniel Frohardt** will be retiring at the end of this academic year after 45 years of service to our department. **Peimeng Yin** joined our department as a postdoctoral fellow for two years starting in the fall. Dr. Yin is a numerical analyst who earned his PhD at Iowa State University in 2019. He will be working with Professor **Hengguang Li** on numerical solutions to partial differential equations.

Professor **Thaleia Zariphopoulou**, who holds the Presidential Chair of Mathematics and the V.F. Neuhaus Professorship of Finance at the University of Texas at Austin, delivered the Twenty-Eighth Annual Owens Lecture, entitled "Human-machine interaction models and stochastic optimization", on Wednesday, March 4. Professor Zariphopoulou specializes in financial mathematics and stochastic optimization. She has published extensively in the areas of investments and valuation in incomplete markets, and has introduced novel approaches to indifference valuations, risk measures and dynamic utilities. Professor Zariphopoulou gave another lecture, entitled "Thoughts on Teaching and Learning Mathematics" earlier that day. For more details about the Owens Lecture, see the announcement at <tinyurl.com/uxnlfsp>.

Alumnus **Ron Wood** ('75, MA '80) has received the 2020 Homer D. Strong Alumni Award from Wayne State University. He is focused on helping today's students prepare for their careers by collaborating with the WSU mathematics department, serving as a mentor, and encouraging participation in Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan internship programs. Mr. Wood has devoted his career to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, where he has worked for 41 years, and currently serves as the vice president of business performance. Wood co-founded the Organization of Black Alumni, of which he is a past president.

Back to Contents

Awards

Doug Lapp (CMU) Wins 2020 Distinguished Teaching Award

Carl Lee (Central Michigan U) <lee1c@cmich.edu>

The 2020 Michigan Section–MAA Distinguished Teaching Award Committee—consisting of **Angela Kubena** (UM-Ann Arbor), **Carl Lee** (Central Michigan), **Yunus Zeytuncu** (UM-Dearborn), and **Elizabeth Lamprecht** (Adrian College)—is pleased to announce that the 2020 Michigan Section recipient of the MAA Award for Distinguished Teaching is Dr. Doug Lapp from Central Michigan University.

Doug is receiving this award for his excellent teaching and for being a pioneer and leader in active learning at Central Michigan University, for his work as an advisor of a NSF-funded "Long-Term Undergraduate Research Experience" project, for providing professional development workshops to several universities in the USA and Canada on active learning and the use of technology for teaching mathematics, for his outstanding professional service for the College Board, the SAT Subject Mathematics Test Development Committee (2016–present), the committee for Teacher Preparation Standards for the Michigan Department of Education, and for serving as an Editor of Contemporary Issues in technology and mathematics Teaching Education and as Vice President of the Michigan Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

The Committee recognizes the great positive impact Doug has had on mathematics education at his institution and beyond and is honored to present him with the 2020 Michigan Section–MAA Distinguished Teaching Award.

Gavin LaRose (UM-AA) Wins 2020 Distinguished Service Award

Victor Piercey (Ferris State U) <victor.piercey@ferris.edu>

Gavin LaRose, from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, has served his department, the section, and the national mathematics community in numerous ways. This includes serving as our section's four-year-college vice chair in 2015–16, the chair in 2016–17, and the past chair in 2017–18. Gavin has served the national MAA as well, through numerous committees including the Nominating Committee and the Committee on Professional Development, and as one of the longest-serving members of the leadership team of Project NExT. Another major way that Gavin has impacted mathematics nationally is through his commitment to advancing teaching with technology, and WeBWorK in particular.

In recognition of all of his hard work and dedication, the Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present its 2020 Distinguished Service Award to Gavin LaRose. Details will appear in the Fall issue of the *Newsletter*.

Back to Contents

Nominations for Section Officers

Victor Piercey (Ferris State U) <victorpiercey@ferris.edu>

Due to the cancellation of our annual meeting and the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, elections for section officers were held online in April, and many of our officers volunteered to stay in their roles for an additional term. Thanks to those who voted! An updated list of section officers can be found on page 18.

We are searching for a new MMPC Director, to begin next year. The person serving in this role is a voting member of the Executive Committee of the section. This position may be held by co-Directors. We are also searching for a public information officer, who will be responsible for writing and distributing press releases about the section. This is typically limited to information about the winners of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, which is sent out to the home newspapers of each of the winners.

The section is always in need of individuals to contribute to the work of the section – volunteers are vital to the running of the section. If you are interested in volunteering your time (or know someone who is) please contact Victor Piercey <victorpiercey@ferris.edu>. If you have any questions about how you might contribute, please don't hesitate to ask. Thanks!

2021 Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations Due December 14, 2020

Carl Lee <lee1c@cmich.edu>
Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair

Nominations for the Michigan Section's 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted, and must be received by December 14, 2020 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 in the spring at the annual meeting of the Michigan Section, and will also, pending submission of additional supporting material and membership in the MAA, become the Michigan Section nominee for the national MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Nomination Instructions Completed nominations must be received by December 14, 2020, to be considered for the 2021 Award. The nomination form is available on the section's website as a Microsoft Word file.

Send an electronic copy of the completed form to Angela Kubena <akubena@umich.edu>; please use "Michigan DTA Nomination" as the subject.

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 requested.

Eligibility for the Award To be considered for the award, a nominee must:

- Be a college or university teacher who currently teaches a mathematical science at least half-time during the academic year in a public or private college or university (from two-year college teaching through teaching at the PhD level) in Michigan. Those on approved leave (sabbatical or otherwise) during the academic year in which they are nominated qualify if they fulfilled the requirements in the previous year.
- Have at least seven years experience in teaching the mathematical sciences.
- Have had teaching effectiveness that can be documented.
- Have had influence in their teaching beyond their own institution.
- Foster curiosity and generate excitement about mathematics in their students.

Back to Contents

Upcoming Meetings

- Our spring section meeting, which was scheduled to be held at Grand Valley State University in April, was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We tentatively plan to hold the meeting in April of 2021 instead, again at GVSU. The meeting website at <gvsu.edu/mism2020/> will be updated as more information is determined.
- Lake Superior State University is tentatively scheduled to host the 2020 Michigan Section–MAA Upper Peninsula Regional meeting on October 2–3. More information is available at <faculty.lssu.edu/rkipka/regional-meeting-of-the-maa/>.
- The 2021 MichMATYC Spring Conference is also tentatively scheduled to be held April 9–10, at Lansing Community College. For more information, please see page 12.

Spring 2020 Mathematical Contest News

The 2019 American Mathematics Competitions Results

David Friday (Maccomb Community College) <fridayd@maccomb.edu>

The American Mathematics Contest 8 (AMC 8) for students in grades 8 and below is a 25-question, 40-minute multiple choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development and enhancement of problem solving skills; to demonstrate the broad range of topics available for the junior high school mathematics curriculum; and to promote excitement, enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards mathematics.

The 2019 AMC 8 Exam was taken by 94,742 students from 1,876 schools, with an average score of 9.43 out of 25 total points. The top 1% scored 23 or above.

Three students (up from one last year) in Michigan got a perfect score of 25: 7th grader **Michael Lu** from Bloomfield Hills Middle School (Bloomfield Hills), 8th grader **Jason Zhang** of East Middle School (Plymouth), and 7th grader **Brian Zhang** of Meads Mill Middle School (Northville). The state's highest team score, established by the top three scorers at the school, was the team hosted at Lawrence Technological University, with a score of 72 out of 75. The team from Detroit Country Day Middle School was right behind them with a score of 71 out of 75.

Three students (up from none last year) in Michigan got a score of 24: 8th grader **Steven Fu** of the Lawrence Tech team, 8th grader **Vikram Goddla** of Detroit Country Day Middle School (Beverly Hills), and 7th grader **Henry Jiang** of Detroit Country Day Middle School (Beverly Hills),

Results from the AMC 10/12 A and AMC 10/12 B are still pending.

Congratulations to all of the 2019 AMC 8 winners!

Michigan Section—Mathematical Association of America

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Back to Contents

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Calendar of Events

(All Dates Tentative)

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

2020: **Cancelled**
2021: Grand Valley State University, Dates TBD
<gvsu.edu/mism2020/>.
2022: Alma College

MAA MathFest

2020: Philadelphia, PA, July 29–August 1 **(Cancelled)**
<maa.org/meetings/mathfest>
2021: Sacramento, CA, August 4–7
2022: Washington, DC, August 3–6
2023: Tampa, FL, August 2–5

AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings[3]

2021: Washington, DC, January 6–9
<jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>
2022: Seattle, WA, January 5–8
2023: Boston, MA, January 4–7

AMATYC Annual Conference

2020: Spokane, WA, November 12–15
<amatyc.site-ym.com/page/2020ConfHome>
2021: Phoenix, AZ, October 28–31
2022: Toronto, ON, November 17–20
2023: Omaha, NE, November 9–12
2024: Atlanta, GA, November 14–17
2025: Orlando, FL, November 19–22

NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition

2020: St. Louis, MO, postponed until April 21–24, 2021
<https://www.nctm.org/News-and-Calendar/News/NCTM-News-Releases/NCTM-Events-and-COVID-19/>
2021: Atlanta, GA, September 22–25
2022: Los Angeles, CA, September 28–October 1

[3]The MAA's agreement with the AMS to jointly run the Joint Mathematics Meetings will end following the JMM in 2021.

Back to Contents