# Michigan Section Mathematical Association of America NEWSLETTER

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This and older issues of the *Newsletter* can be found at
<sections.maa.org/michigan/newsletters>


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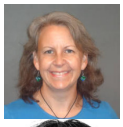


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# Reports from the Executive Board

## Chair's Report

Victor Piercey (Ferris)
<VictorPiercey@ferris.edu>

With CoViD-19 vaccine distribution quickening, there is reason for hope. We might be able to return to something approximating normality in the fall, both in the classroom and our professional lives.

In my last report to you, I challenged you to think about what you are going to take away from the pandemic, to think about what you learned, that will endure. I have thought a lot about this question myself, and realized that teaching equitably is at the top of my list.

Of course, inequities in education are nothing new. But as with other social services, the pandemic exacerbated the problem and laid the evidence of the problem in front of us in a way that we cannot ignore. Listening to the voices of the marginalized, we cannot help but learn that we must do better.

Coming from a place of privilege, my question is how we learn to do better. It starts by listening. This does not mean that we corner our minoritized students and colleagues and make them bear the burden. We listen to what is already out there. We do our own research.

I recommend starting with a recent book by **Pamela Harris** (Williams College) and **Aris Winger** (Georgia Gwinnett College), Asked and Answered: Dialogues on Advocating For Students of Color in Mathematics <pamelaeharris.com/post/new-book-on-advocating-for-students-of-color-in-mathematics>.

This book is written by practitioners for practitioners, and features advice both for classroom instruction and departmental relations. They are not unrealistic – this requires work, and it requires sitting with and analyzing our own discomfort. But the work is important. And one of the themes of the book is that, as mathematicians, we have a skillset that can help us in doing this work.

While you could read this book on your own, you might also consider finding allies to read and discuss the book with you. You and your allies could use this reading as a springboard to action in your department along with further reading.

This brings me to the second thing I have learned this past year—the importance of connection with other people. While Zoom fatigue is real, I have found that the ubiquity of online conversation has helped me through this experience in a way that would have been unlikely if it occurred 20 years ago. In our section, there are several structures through which we can connect. **Amy Shell-Gelasch** (EMU) and her team are assembling an excellent online annual meeting on April 9 and 16. **Nina White** (UM-AA) chairs the Michigan regional inquiry-based learning (IBL) community, Alliance for Michigan IBL (AMiBL). If you haven't signed up, you can join at <amiibl.org/>. Keep your eyes out for a summer workshop as well as additional programming and opportunities from AMiIBL!

There are certainly other nuts and bolts teaching points I have learned. I've learned to try to manage "excess cognitive load" during instruction—that is, cognition required to do something that isn't directly related to the learning objectives. For example, finding the materials needed for a lesson in a learning management system. I have also learned that Zoom may be an option for office hours—students can either come to the office in person or jump into a Zoom session. (I will need to think about how to handle the logistics.) I also don't think I am ever going to distribute or collect anything on paper, letting the learning management system handle this instead.

As I have said many times, I have found the resilience of the MAA community, and the Michigan section, to be inspiring. I hope that we are truly on our way out of the pandemic, and that we emerge a stronger community than ever.

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### Four-Year-College Vice-Chair's Report

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

The virtual spring section meeting will take place on the Friday afternoons and evenings of April 9 and 16. Registration is free, and will be open through the Wednesday prior to each meeting day. The Zoom link to the meeting will be mailed to each registered attendee on the Thursday prior to each meeting day. To register, as well as view the program, visit the meeting website at <sections.maa.org/michigan/meetings/2021_Spring_annual_meeting.html>.

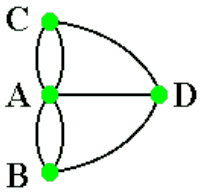
The program includes plenary and invited talks as well as contributed student and member papers.

Our evening plenary speakers are:

**April 9** MAA Polya lecturer **Charlie Hadlock** <faculty.bentley.edu/details.asp?uname=chadlock>, "Fun with Auctions"

**April 16 William Dunham** <muhlenberg.edu/academics/mathcs/computerscience/facultystaff/williamdunham/>, "The Infinitude of Primes: Euclid, Euler, Erdös"

For more information, contact the Four-Year Vice Chair, Amy Shell-Gellasch <ashellge@emich.edu>



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

## Western Michigan University

The Department of Mathematics at Western Michigan University offers a variety of graduate programs. We offer PhDs in Mathematics and Mathematics Education; Master's degrees in Mathematics, Applied and Computational Mathematics and Mathematics Education.

The Department offers several forms of financial assistance. Stipends range from $13,003–$15,577 with possible summer support. Currently all supported doctoral students and master's students receive tuition waivers. Applications are due by February 15, 2021, and are continually filled as long as openings remain.

All application materials are available on our web pages: <www.wmich.edu/math> or e-mail: <math-info@wmich.edu>

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

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**Section Representative's Report**

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

At the MAA Congress, we continue to watch the calendar and the pandemic nervously. While everyone had hoped that we'd be able to hold MathFest in Sacramento this August, plans at the national level have switched from in-person with opportunities for remote participation to completely virtual. See the MathFest Web site <maa.org/meetings/mathfest> for details.

Where the pandemic is concerned, I've been thinking a bit about what our classes might look like when CoViD-19 is under control. I'm not going to miss teaching while wearing a mask—I told all my students at the start of the semester that I'm usually not pausing mid-lecture for dramatic emphasis, but rather to get oxygen into my lungs. And it will be nice to move the plexiglass barriers out, not because I teach behind one, but because I tend to trip over them as I move about the room.

I'm curious: are there things we've learned about teaching with CoViD-19 that are going to become part of our teaching going forward? Have you discovered something new this past year that you intend to keep doing even when it's not medically necessary? I'd be very interested to hear what everyone thinks about this. For my own part, I foresee more virtual meetings, though perhaps not virtual classes, going forward.

I remain interested in everyone's thoughts about the direction of the MAA. Please contact me at <mbollman@albion.edu> with your ideas and suggestions.

## Michigan Section Dues

Your voluntary dues contribution will help support the activities of the Michigan section, such as the Annual Meeting and the *Newsletter*. Dues may be submitted online via PayPal (log in to your account at paypal.com and specify MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com as the address of the recipient), or you may print and mail this form and a check to the address given below.

Enclosed is a check for:

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

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing address _____

_____

Email address _____

Make checks payable to:
Michigan Section–MAA, and mail them to:

Ken Schilling
Secretary-Treasurer, Michigan Section–MAA
Mathematics Department
University of Michigan-Flint
303 E. Kearsley Street
Flint, MI 48502

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## Secretary-Treasurer's Report

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

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed voluntary section dues payment for 2020–2021.

In this year of CoViD-19, the number of dues-paying individual and institutional members went down significantly. That's okay—at least fiscally—because with the cancellation of the 2020 spring section meeting, and with the 2021 meeting going on-line, our expenses went down even more. I trust that when the pandemic subsides that you as our members will resume your full support, and that our section will be able to resume all of its usual activities, and more.

I would particularly like to thank **William Jackson** for his continued support of the Ron Mosier Award as a supplement to his voluntary dues. His contribution guarantees that the section will continue to recognize the outstanding student talk at the annual section meeting.

As of this date, our section's bank balance is $10,523.15, thanks to our members' support, 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.

## Institutional and Sustaining Members

### Individual Sustaining Members, 2021

- Edward Aboufadel
- Steven Althoen
- Daniel Isaksen
- William Jackson[1]
- Tim Pennings
- Norman Richert
- Victor Piercey
- Kenneth Schilling
- Matthew Wyneken

### Institutional Members, 2021

- Davenport University
- Grand Valley State University

## MMPC Update

Due to CoViD-19, the MMPC Directors have elected to suspend the event for one year. We look forward to reporting on the 2021–2022 competition!

[1] + $100 for Ron Mosier fund.

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**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>.

BIOSTATISTICS

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The nation's #1 biostatistics program is doing a world of good through cutting-edge research in all areas of applied and theoretic biostatistics, including large-scale statistical computing, longitudinal data, missing data, survival analysis, clinical trial design, and statistical genetics. Numerous student funding opportunities are available, including training grants and research assistantships. Graduates of our program are favored by national employers in many areas, including universities, governmental agencies, pharmaceutical companies, and biotech companies.

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## Campus News

### Albion College

Mark Bollman <mbollman@albion.edu>

**Matt Jackson** has joined the department as an adjunct instructor in mathematics.

Albion College has approved a new major in Data Science and a new minor in Data Analytics, which will launch in the fall.

The Albion Mathematics and Computer Science Department invites our Section colleagues to join us in wearing plaid to show their support for mathematics on International Plaid Day: Friday, April 30, the last Friday of Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

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### Central Michigan University

En-Bing Lin <lin1e@cmich.edu>

**En-Bing Lin** has received the 2021 CMU President's Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity. <cmich.edu/news/article/pages/2021_president_provost_awards.aspx>.

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### Calvin College

John Ferdinands <ferd@calvin.edu>

**Dave Klanderman** and **Nathan Sunukjian** have been awarded tenure.

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### Davenport University

Timothy Pennings <tpennings@davenport.edu>

**Timothy Pennings** has completed a YouTube Calculus I course: *Kitchen Calculus: Essentials of Calculus* (following the organization of Thomas' Calculus) and is currently finishing a similar course for Calculus II. Both are found on YouTube via timothy j pennings.

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**Eastern Michigan University**

Amy Shell-Gellasch <ashellge@emich.edu> Transformative Eastern Michigan Mathematics Educators (TEMME) is a recently-formed team of professionals with a common aim to transform the preparation of secondary mathematics teachers who graduate from Eastern Michigan University. It includes mathematicians and mathematics teacher-educators from EMU's Department of Mathematics and Statistics along with teacher-educators from EMU's College of Education and administrators and teachers from Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium, Washtenaw Technical Middle College, Washtenaw Community College, and Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

In Fall 2020, TEMME joined the Mathematics Teacher Education Partnership, a nationwide group working collaboratively to redesign secondary mathematics teacher preparation programs.

TEMME's co-leader is Stephanie Casey <scasey1@emich.edu>.

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**University of Michigan-Flint**

Ricardo Alfaro <ralfaro@umich.edu>

**Mehrdad Simkani** is on sabbatical this winter semester. **Shu-Yi Tu** will be on sabbatical next fall, and **Daniel Coffield** will be on sabbatical next winter.

The College of Arts and Sciences is going through a restructuring. Starting July 1, 2021, our program will be part of the new Mathematics and Applied Sciences Department, which will host the engineering, computer science and mathematics programs. Additionally, **Laura McLeman** will start a new joint appointment between the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education and Human Services. The latter will now host the Mathematics Teacher's Certification Programs.

A brand new 31,000-square-foot addition to our Murchie Science Building opened this past February. It consists of new laboratories, classrooms, office spaces, and student spaces that promote interdisciplinary collaboration and innovative projects in science.


## 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


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### Hillsdale College

David Murphy <dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>

**Mark Panaggio** accepted a new position at The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory as a member of the senior professional staff. He departed from Hillsdale College at the end of the 2019-20 academic year.

**Paulina Volosov** joined the department as an assistant professor of applied mathematics. She received her PhD from Renssealaer Polytechnic Institute in the spring of 2020 and joined us that summer.

**Dave Gaebler**, **Ryan Hutchinson**, and **David Murphy** have had sabbaticals during the Spring 2020, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 semesters respectively.

**Tom Treloar** and David Murphy co-taught an online course, "Mathematics and Logic: from Euclid to Modern Geometry." It is now available for free from Hillsdale College's online courses.

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### Lawrence Technological University

Bruce Pell <bpell@ltu.edu>, Ruth Favro <rfavro@ltu.edu>

Thanks to LTU's laptop program, the Mathematics and Computer Science Department (MCS) continues to accommodate students smoothly either through online, in-person, or hybrid classes.

MCS Seminar speakers are concentrating on modeling and forecasting CoViD-19 issues. Featured are **Courtney Shelley** and **Morgan Gorris** (Los Alamos), **Enahoro Iboi** (Spelman C), **Meir Shillor** (Oakland U), **Bruce Pell** (LTU), and **Patrick Nelson** (LTU). Information on upcoming talks is at <facebook.com/ltumcs>. The Idea Factory, a lecture series within the College of Arts and Sciences, is concentrating on how the course-based research model fosters diversity, inclusion, and academic rigor in the classroom. The annual Cisler Lecture in Arts & Sciences, postponed from 2020, will be held March 31, at 7:00 pm. Our speaker is Dr. **Gilbert S. Omenn** from the University of Michigan. His talk is titled "Grand Challenges and Great Opportunities in Science, Technology and Public Policy".

Robofest continues online again this year, registering teams and holding qualifying rounds for the Online World Championship to be held August through October. Team registration is open at <robofest.net>.

The LTU Math Club did not have any fall meetings, but has organized for spring semester with biweekly online meetings. Featured will be a Problem of the Week, talks by students and others, collaboration with Society of Physics Students in their tutoring sessions, and other activities to engage students online.

In competition news, we had one team in the MATH Challenge (virtual) in the fall, and two teams in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling this winter. Our studnets are looking forward to the Lower Michigan Math Competition (virtual) in April.

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### Oakland University

Daniel Steffy <steffy@oakland.edu>

Professor **Stephen J. Wright** retired at the end of the fall 2020 semester.

Oakland University will host the 2021 SIAM Great Lakes Section Meeting as a virtual event on Saturday, April 24, 2021. Registration is free and more information can be found at <sites.google.com/oakland.edu/glsiam2021/>

In the summer of 2021 Oakland University will host a virtual Math Corps, an outreach program for seventh and eighth graders from Pontiac, MI and surrounding areas.

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### Saginaw Valley State University

Emmanuel Ncheuguim <ekengnin@svsu.edu>

The Department welcomes **Joshua Mike** for a tenure track position and **Shaun Thayer** for a one-year temporary lecture position.

**John Mooningham** and **Gretchen Mooningham** are on leave for Spring 2021. **Cyrus Aryana** and **Bing Liu** have retired.

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### Siena Heights University

Jeffrey Kallenbach <jkallenb@sienaheights.edu>

Siena Heights University Mathematics program has added new faculty member **Kendra Dafoe** for the 2020-2021 academic year. Dr. Dafoe comes to us with a PhD from the University of Toledo, after a successful tenure as a math teacher at Summerfield High School in Petersburg.

Graduating seniors are presenting their senior research projects at two remote conferences this semester. **Philip Cuthbertson**, **Dominic Fryman**, **Marcia Hawkins-Day**, and **Carlos Palan** presented at the Youngstown State University Pi Mu Epsilon Conference in February. **Bradley Bauer** and **Remy Collard** will present their work at the Rose Hulman Undergraduate Mathematics conference in April.

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**University of Michigan-Ann Arbor**

Suzanne Rogers <math-events@umich.edu> and Beth Wolf <bethwolf@umich.edu>

The 2020 session of the Ypsilanti Math Corps at U(M) was a resounding success. The program was a virtual experience for the summer, but that just added another level to the enthusiasm and engagement of the staff and students. Led by **Sarah Koch** and **Stephen DeBacker**, along with several other department faculty and students, the program taught 60 middle schoolers and 30 high school teaching assistants for five weeks during July and August. The program was supported by the department, the National Science Foundation, as well as several generous donors including one donation of 100 new tablets that allowed all of the participants to experience an engaging and fulfilling online program with appropriate technology. This program has continued over the school year with Super Saturdays.

**Michael Weiss** recently published the book *Secondary Mathematics for Mathematicians and Educators: A View from Above* (Routledge, October 2020). The book, meant for those with at least an advanced-level undergraduate mathematical background and an interest in secondary mathematics education, analyzes the secondary mathematics curriculum and its historical development.

U(M) Mathematics Librarian **Samuel Hansen** is the host of the *Relatively Prime* podcast <relprime.com/>, featuring in-depth stories about the world of mathematics. While each episode revolves around a single theme, the themes themselves vary widely and include a checkers-playing computer, new tools for your mathematical toolbox, and things that were flat-out unexpected. The guests range widely too, from a Fields Medalist, to a composer, to a stand-up mathematician. This past November, *Relatively Prime* also welcomed two of the organizers of #BlackInMathWeek for an episode on Black students in mathematics and math education.

## Awards

### 2022 Distinguished Service Award Nominations Due January 31, 2022

Victor Piercey (Ferris) <VictorPiercey@ferris.edu>

Nominations are being solicited for the Michigan Section's 2022 Distinguished Service Award.

The awards committee will accept nominations until January 31, 2022.

Nominations should include the nominee's service in their 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 Victor Piercey <VictorPiercey@ferris.edu>.

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## 2022 Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations Due December 31, 2021

Yunus Zeytuncu <zeytuncu@umich.edu>
Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair

Nominations for the Michigan Section's 2022 Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted, and must be received by December 31, 2021 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 underrepresented 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 31, 2021 to be considered for the 2022 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 Yunus Zeytuncu <zeytuncu@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.

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## Sarah Koch (UM-AA) Wins 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award

Angela Kubena (UM-AA) <akubena@umich.edu>

The 2021 Michigan Section–MAA Distinguished Teaching Award Committee—consisting of **Angela Kubena** (UM-Ann Arbor), **Yunus Zeytuncu** (UM-Dearborn), **Doug Lapp** (Central Michigan), and **Elizabeth Lamprecht** (Adrian College)—is pleased to announce that the 2021 Michigan Section recipient of the MAA Award for Distinguished Teaching is Dr. **Sarah Koch** from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

Sarah is receiving this award for her outstanding teaching and for her extraordinary outreach efforts. In addition to being a phenomenal teacher, Sarah devotes countless hours to addressing issues of inclusion and equity in mathematics.

She is the organizer of Math Mondays in Ypsilanti and the director of the Ypsilanti Math Corps at U(M), two extremely effective programs that provide mathematics support to underserved majority-minority school children in Ypsilanti. Sarah is also actively involved in the Wolverine Pathways program in Ypsilanti and Southfield, the Wayne and Washtenaw Counties Math Teachers' Circle, and the Michigan Math Circle. Moreover, she is a faculty advisor for FEMMES, a program to encourage girls in STEM fields by building their curiosity and confidence, and has been a co-organizer of the Graduate Opportunities for Women (GROW) conference.

The Committee recognizes the very significant impact Sarah has had in bringing mathematics not only to students at the University of Michigan, but also to the greater southeastern Michigan community and beyond, and is honored to present her with the 2021 Michigan Section–MAA Distinguished Teaching Award.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Northern Michigan University is tentatively planning to host the MAA Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting on October 1-2, 2021. If the pandemic is still a factor at that time, the meeting may be held virtually. Information will be posted once it is known at <euclid.nmu.edu/~joshthom/maa_meeting.shtml>. Please see the article about last year's UP Meeting, Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting a Virtual Success on page 17.
- Lansing Community College will be hosting the 2021 MichMATYC Conference on October 8-9, 2021. The theme of the conference is "Mathematics Support and Success: A Vision for the Future." For more information, please see <michmatyc.org/upcoming/michmatyc-2021/>.

## Nominations for Section Officers

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

Our section will soon elect several officers for next year, including four-year-college and two-year-college vice-chairs and a director of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC). Please note that we have decided to again hold the election online rather than at our section meeting; please watch for voting information, which will be distributed via email to all section members.

**Norma Ortiz-Robinson** (GVSU) will be on the ballot for the position of **four-year-college vice-chair**, who serves for one year and is in charge of the annual meeting. Typically the four-year-college vice-chair is elevated to the position of section chair for the following year, and serves as the past chair in the year after serving as chair.

**Jon Oaks** (Macomb CC) will be on the ballot for **two-year-college vice-chair**, who serves for at least one year and provides an important link between the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC.

Finally, the **MMPC director** serves for 3 years and administers all aspects of this competition. This position may be held by co-Directors. See the section by-laws for more detail; they can be found at the section's web page, <sections.maa.org/michigan/>. Note that these officers must be MAA members.

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 Nancy Colwell <nccolwel@svsu.edu>. If you have any questions about how you might contribute, please don't hesitate to ask. Thanks!

## The 2020 American Mathematics Competitions Results

Dave Friday (Macomb Community College) <fridayd@macomb.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.

Due to the CoViD-19 pandemic, the 2020 AMC 8 was offered in a distance format. The exam was taken by 56,136 students from 1,408 schools, with an average score of 10 out of 25 total points. The top 1% scored 21 or above. Participation this year was down by approximately 40,000 students in comparison to 2019.

One Michigan student (down from three last year) got a perfect score of 25: 7th grader **Jiaxuan Gong** from the Indus Center for Academic Excellence (ICAE, Troy). Three Michigan students (the same number as last year) scored 24 out of 25: 8th grader **Yanming Huang** from the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), 8th grader **Michael Lu** from ICAE (Troy), and 8th grader **Brian Zhang** from ICAE (Troy). The highest team score, established by the top three scorers at the school, for the state was ICAE, with a score of 73 out of 75.

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

Congratulations to all of the 2020 AMC 8 winners!

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## Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting a Virtual Success

Rob Kipka (LSSU) <rkipka@lssu.edu>

On October 2–3, Lake Superior State University hosted the annual Upper Peninsula Regional Meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA. Because of the ongoing CoViD-19 pandemic, the meeting was held over Zoom.

Unexpected positive aspects of the recent crises were a recurring theme of the meeting, which began with a discussion panel on positive ways in which the pandemic has influenced our teaching. Panel members represented universities from across the Upper Peninsula.

**Victor Piercey** of Ferris State University and **Matt Boelkins** of Grand Valley State University gave engaging plenary talks on Friday evening and Saturday morning, respectively. The conference also saw a series of shorter talks on education and mathematical modeling from speakers out of Ferris State University, Grand Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, and Saginaw Valley State University. A full program of the conference can be found at <faculty.lssu.edu/rkipka/regional-meeting-of-the-maa/>.

As the organizer of this conference, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who participated, especially the undergraduate and graduate students, who attended from Lake Superior State University, Michigan Technological University, and Northern Michigan University.

I was also particularly pleased that **John Kiltinen**, an emeritus professor of the department at Northern Michigan University and a regular at the Upper Peninsula Regional Meetings, attended and participated in the meeting.

I left our meeting feeling excited and energized and, though I look forward to a day when we are again traveling and meeting in person, I was thrilled with the success of the online format.

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# Michigan Section—Mathematical Association of America

## Committees and Appointments

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## Calendar of Events

### Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

2021: Virtual, April 6 and 19
<http://sections.maa.org/michigan/meetings/>.
2022*: Grand Valley State University
2023*: Alma College
2024*: Lake Superior State University
2025*: Saginaw Valley State University
*tentative

### MAA MathFest

2021: Virtual, August 4–7
<maa.org/meetings/mathfest>
2022: Washington, DC, August 3–6
2023: Tampa, FL, August 2–5
2024: Indianapolis, IN, August 7-1-0

### AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings[2]

2021: Washington, DC, January 6–9
<jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>
2022: Seattle, WA, January 5–8
2023: Boston, MA, January 4–7
2024: San Francisco, CA, January 3–6

### AMATYC Annual Conference

2021: Phoenix, AZ, October 28–31
<https://amatyc.org/page/2021ConfHome>
2022: Toronto, ON, November 17–20
2023: Omaha, NE, November 9–12
2024: Atlanta, GA, November 14–17
2025: Reno, NV, November 13–16

### NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition

2021: Virtual, April 21 to May 1, 2021
<https://www.nctm.org/virtualannual/>
2021: Atlanta, GA, September 22–25
2022: Los Angeles, CA, September 28–October 1
2023: Washington, DC, October 25–28

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