Michigan Section
Mathematical Association of America
NEWSLETTER

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

Contents

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In This Issue

Reports from the Executive Board

Chair's Report

Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC) <oaksj@macomb.edu>

As the semester begins to wind down, I've been reflecting on the ways we continue to evolve as educators—both in how we teach and how we support one another as a community. One of the biggest projects we've been piloting at my college this semester is a new active learning classroom, designed to create a more flexible and engaging space for students. Unlike our HyFlex room, this one is entirely in-person, featuring mobile furniture, vertical whiteboards, and a Clevertouch Board. Of course, no new initiative comes without its challenges—some furniture arrived missing key features, and we quickly realized the need for additional tools like a second screen and supply storage. Despite these hurdles, the space has been successful enough that we're now in the process of converting an underutilized computer lab into another active learning classroom.

Attending conferences like MichMATYC this past fall has also reinforced the importance of continuous learning and professional growth. One of my favorite sessions was Tim Chartier's keynote on Data Analytics in Sports, which sparked ideas on how to bring more engaging, real-world applications into my own teaching. Conferences provide invaluable opportunities to learn from one another, share teaching strategies, and stay current on emerging trends in mathematics education. If you haven't attended a conference recently, I encourage you to consider MichMATYC 2025 at Southwestern Michigan College—it's a great opportunity to connect with colleagues while staying close to home.

Beyond professional development, one of the most rewarding aspects of conferences is the chance to collaborate across institutions. Whether it's two-year and four-year colleges working together on transfer pathways, faculty exchanging active learning strategies, or colleagues discussing new research and teaching innovations, these connections strengthen the mathematical community in Michigan.

If you're looking for ways to get involved, I encourage you to consider presenting at a conference, contributing ideas for workshops or initiatives, or even hosting a future section meeting. We're already looking ahead to future hosts for 2026 and beyond. Hosting a Section meeting is a great way to showcase your institution and help shape the conversations that drive mathematics education forward—if your college might be interested, I'd love to hear from you!

Thank you all for your dedication to mathematics education and to this community. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, ideas, or just to chat. I hope you have a great rest of your semester, and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events!

Our Section Needs Your Help!

If you are interested in serving our section on the executive committee or want to help out our mathematical community in other ways, please let us know! We are always looking for people to help out in large or small ways. If you have a little time to give or slightly more, please email Jonathan Oaks <oaksj@macomb.edu>

Four-Year-College Vice-Chair's Report

David Murphy (Hillsdale U) <dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>

As your Four-Year Vice Chair, I am seeking to create and establish "programs, outreach, and community building of section members." This mission is not a one-person job, so I am eager for your input regarding the kinds of programming that would best help you and our section to grow. Thus, let me begin by requesting anyone with ideas for Michigan MAA programs, outreach, or community building opportunities to reach out to me at <dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>. I am eager to work with all of you to make our section one of the best in the MAA!

In order to get the ball rolling, here are some ideas already in the works.

For these initiatives, we are looking to our members for help. Please let me know of your interest in helping to make these ideas a reality so the section's programs will grow and thrive.

Michigan Section NExT program

It has been over 10 years since we last had an active Section NExT program. In a new incarnation, we want to make a program that is not just for new faculty, recognizing that we all need to keep learning new innovations in teaching and research. The objectives for such a program would include improved networking and mentoring across the section, and offering a setting for exploring new teaching practices and research topics.

Online Section seminars

We gather as a section once a year (at Lake Superior State University this year), which is a great time to meet one another and hear about the work being done. In addition to this annual gathering, we are looking to add two online lectures, one in Spring and one in Fall, for members to attend virtually to share their teaching and research ideas.

Colloquium speaker listing

Do you have a great math colloquium lecture? Of course! We are looking to help departments find speakers by creating and maintaining a listing of members and colloquium talks they have to share. Please email me directly at <dmurphy@hillsdale.edu> with your name, title(s) of lectures you have, and a travel radius (by distance or time).

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>`.

COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE & ENGINEERING
MATHEMATICS
CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMS

Ph.D. in Mathematical Sciences

The Ph.D. degree at CMU 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, representation theory, and tropical geometry.
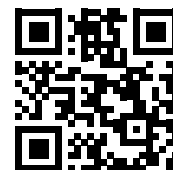
M.A. in Mathematics

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.

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

Graduate Coordinator
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).

Campus News

Albion College

Mark Bollman <mbollman@albion.edu>

Darren Mason is the new department chair. **Mark Bollman** is on sabbatical in the spring semester, studying at the Center for Gaming Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The department recently collaborated with Albion's Education, English, and Physics departments to sponsor the first Michigan screening of the film *Counted Out*.

Albion encourages our Section colleagues to show their support for mathematics by wearing plaid on International Plaid Day: Friday, April 25, the last Friday of Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

Calvin University

John Ferdinands <john.ferdinands@calvin.edu>

Stacy DeRuiter and **Nathan Sunukjian** will be on sabbatical during the academic year 2026–27.

Kalamazoo College

Eric Nordmoe <eric.nordmoe@kzoo.edu>

We have two new visiting assistant professors in the department: **Rachel Chaser** and **Cemile Kurkoglu**.

Stephen Oloo was promoted to associate professor in Spring 2024.

Macomb Community College

Jon Oaks <oaksj@macomb.edu>

This semester, we are piloting a new active learning room on campus. Unlike our Flexible Learning (HyFlex) room, which debuted last year, this space is designed exclusively for in-person learning and does not include a camera or microphone. Instead, it features mobile chairs and tables on casters, vertical whiteboards, and a Clevertouch Board to support interactive engagement.

As with any new initiative, there have been some challenges. Some furniture arrived without casters, and we quickly realized that the chairs with attached desks weren't ideal. We also identified a need for additional amenities, including a coat rack, bulletin board, supply storage, and a second screen to ensure visibility from all areas of the room. And, of course, there's been a learning curve with the technology.

Despite these hurdles, the space has been successful enough that we are now in the process of converting an underutilized computer lab into another active learning classroom. While it's still a work in progress, we're excited about the possibilities this new approach brings to our teaching and learning environment.

Oakland University

JD Nir <jdnir@oakland.edu> The department has received approval for a new BS in Applied Data Science program.

The 2025 Spring Finite Element Circus will be held at Oakland University on April 25–26, 2025. For more information, please see: `https://sites.google.com/oakland.edu/fec2025-spring-at-ou/`

The department will run the OU Math Corps in the summer of 2025 from June 30–August 1, 2025. OU Math Corps is an outreach program for Pontiac middle and high school students.

University of Michigan–Flint

The University of Michigan-Flint, in collaboration with the Genesee Intermediate School District, welcomed approximately 300 high school students for an inspiring Data Science Day on February 3. A highlight of the day was a keynote address by **Alma Cooper**, a Michigan native who is currently a data science master's student at Stanford University, a U.S. Army First Lieutenant, and the reigning 2024 Miss USA. Looking forward, UM-Flint will also be hosting Math Field Day on March 7.

Michigan Section Awards

Michigan Section Awards 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award to Grace McClurkin

Richard "Abe" Edwards <aedwards@umich.edu>

Dr. McClurkin has made exceptional contributions to mathematics education, particularly for high-need students in developmental and general education courses. She has spearheaded the revamping of developmental courses at SVSU from every angle, from implementing active learning, faculty development, increasing accessibility and affordability, to adding a human element and career readiness.

Michigan Section Awards 2025 Distinguished Service Award to Stephanie Edwards

Amy Shell-Gellasch (Eastern Mich. U) <ashellge@emich.edu>

Dr. Edwards has been an active and integral part of the mathematics community at the local, state, and national level for years. As just a sampling of her service, she regularly takes students to national meetings and Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics. At the state level she has served the section as MMPC director, webmaster, and local arrangements chair for the Hope section meeting. At the national level Stephanie served as an Associate Editor of *Mathematics Magazine*.

2026 Distinguished Service Award Nominations Due January 31, 2026

Amy Shell-Gellasch (Eastern Mich. U) <ashellge@emich.edu>
Nominations are being solicited for the MAA Michigan Section's 2026 Distinguished Service Award.

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.

The awards committee will accept nominations until January 31, 2026.

Please send nominations to Amy Shell-Gellasch <ashellge@emich.edu>. Please use "Michigan DSA Nomination" in the subject line.

Details on each award and the DTA nomination form can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/michigan/awards.html> The lists of previous winners can be found at <http://sections.maa.org/michigan/history.html>

2026 Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations Due January 31, 2026

Richard "Abe" Edwards <aedwards@umich.edu>
Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair

Nominations for the Michigan Section's 2026 Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted, and must be received by January 31, 2026, 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 January 31, 2026, to be considered for the 2026 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 Richard "Abe" Edwards <aedwards@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.

Michigan Section—Mathematical Association of America
Committees and Appointments

Executive Committee

Chair	('26)	Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC)
		<oaksj@macomb.edu>
Vice Chair	('25)	David Murphy (Hillsdale C)
		<dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>
Vice Chair	('27)	Michael Pemberton (Lansing CC)
		<pembertm@lcc.edu>
Sec.-Treas.	('25)	Richard "Abe" Edwards (MSU)
		<aedwards@msu.edu>
Past Chair	('26)	Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU)
		<ashellge@emich.edu>
Congress Rep.	('26)	Victor Piercey (Ferris State U)
		<piercev1@ferris.edu>

2025 Annual Meeting Program Committee

Chair	Ricardo Alfaro (UM–Flint)
	<ralfaro@umich.edu>
Member	David Murphy (Hillsdale C)
	<dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>
Member	Michael Pemberton (Lansing CC)
	<pembertm@lcc.edu>
Local Arr.	Jennifer Gorman (LSSU)
	<jgorman1@lssu.edu>

Audit Committee

Member	Dan Isaksen (Wayne State U)
	<isaksen@wayne.edu>
Member	Michael Bolt (Calvin C)
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Michigan Section *Newsletter*

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Co-Editor	('26)	Grace McClurkin (SVSU)
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Ad. Manager		Will Dickinson (GVSU)
		<dickinsw@gvsu.edu>

Distinguished Service Award Committee

Chair	('25)	Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU)
		<ashellge@emich.edu>
Member	('25)	Victor Piercey (Ferris State U)
		<piercev1@ferris.edu>
Member	('25)	Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC)
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Distinguished Teaching Award Committee

Chair	('25)	Richard "Abe" Edwards (MSU)
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Member	('26)	Tibor Marcinek (CMU)
		<marci1t@cmich.edu>
Member	('27)	Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU)
		<ashellge@emich.edu>

Nominating Committee

Chair	('25)	Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU)
		<ashellge@emich.edu>
Member	('25)	Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC)
		<oaksj@macomb.edu>
Member	('25)	Michael Pemberton (Lansing CC)
		<pembertm@lcc.edu>

Other Appointments and Contacts

Webmaster	('25)	Paul Pearson (Hope C)
		<michmaawebmaster@gmail.com>
AMC Coordinator		David Friday (Macomb CC)
		<fridayd@macomb.edu>

Calendar of Events

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

2025:   Lake Superior State University , April 4–5

MAA MathFest

2025:   Sacramento, CA, August 6–9
<maa.org/meetings/mathfest>
2026:   Boston, MA, August 5–8
2027:   New Orleans, LA, August 4–7
2028:   San Diego, CA, August 2–5
2029:   Chicago, IL, August 8–11

AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings

2026:   Washington, D.C., January 4–7
<jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>
2027:   Chicago, IL, January 12–15

AMATYC Annual Conference

2025:   Reno, NV, November 13–16
<amatyc.org/page/Conferences>
2026:   Philadelphia, PA, November 19–22
2027:   Spokane, WA, November 11–14, 2027
2028:   Phoenix, AZ, November 9–12

MichMATYC Annual Conference

2025:   Southwestern Michigan College, Niles, MI, October 10–11
<michmatyc.org/conferences>
2026:   Schoolcraft College, October 9-10
2027:   Kellogg Community College, Date TBA
2028:   Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College, Date TBA
2029:   Glen Oaks Community College, Date TBA

NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition

2025:   Atlanta, GA, October 15–18
<nctm.org/annualmeeting/>

NCTM Spring Conferences

2026:   Indianapolis, IN, February 11–13
        New Orleans, LA, March 18–20

Michigan Section Dues

Your voluntary dues contribution will help support the activities of the Michigan section, such as the Annual Meeting and the *Newsletter*.

The voluntary dues contribution for individuals remains $15, or $30 (or more) for a sustaining membership. Institutional membership dues are $40 or $70, depending on the size of the institution.

We are asking that members pay their dues by PayPal rather than by mailing personal checks, if possible. Please direct online payments using PayPal <paypal.com> to <MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com>. (Log in to your account at paypal.com and specify <MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com> as the address of the recipient.)

If you prefer to pay by check, please make checks payable to Michigan Section–MAA and send them to:
Dr. Richard Abraham Edwards
Michigan State University
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East Lansing, MI 48825