

Michigan Section Mathematical Association of America NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2024

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

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Co-Editors:

Grace McClurkin (SVSU) <gmcclurksvsu.edu>
Corresponding Editor
Clark Wells (GVSU) <wellsc@gvsu.edu>
Technical Editor

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Nominate an outstanding instructor for the Michigan Section-MAA 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award. Nominations are due December 31, 2024.

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](https://www.paypal.com)> to <MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com>. (Log in to your account at [paypal.com](https://www.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
919 East Shaw Lane
East Lansing, MI 48825

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](https://www.maa.org)>.

Reports from the Executive Board

Chair's Report

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

Dear Members of the Michigan Section,

As the energy of spring surrounds us, I hope this message finds you well-rested, especially if you had the opportunity to enjoy a spring break. The change of season brings a sense of renewal and excitement, and it's with this spirit that I look forward to the opportunities for us to connect, learn, and grow together in the coming months.

The highlight of our spring calendar is the upcoming Section Meeting, scheduled for April. This gathering is more than just a meeting; it's an opportunity to share our passion for mathematics, exchange ideas, and foster the sense of community that characterizes our section. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you there, engaging in discussions, and celebrating the work being done in mathematics across Michigan.

Looking beyond our spring activities, I'd like to encourage everyone to enjoy the nice weather of the summer months that lie ahead. Summer offers a perfect

backdrop for reflection, relaxation, and planning for the future. It's also an ideal time to engage with the broader mathematical community, and what better way to do so than by attending MathFest? As always, MathFest promises to be a great occasion to meet fellow mathematicians, explore new perspectives, and celebrate the simple joys of mathematics.

As we navigate through the remainder of the year, please stay connected with our Section on MAA Connect for information on upcoming events, opportunities for collaboration, and helpful resources. Your participation and contributions are what make our section so great.

In closing, I wish you all a wonderful spring and summer. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Spring Section Meeting, MathFest, and other events throughout the year.

Jon Oaks

Chair, Michigan Section of the MAA

Four-Year-College Vice Chair's Report

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

With the passage of the new section by-laws, the Four-Year Vice Chair is now tasked with "programs, outreach, and community building of section members". I am eager to share some of these initiatives and to request your help in making them a reality.

One of these is reviving and reimagining Michigan's Section NExT program. Traditionally, NExT seeks to provide a network of support for new PhDs, encouraging innovations in teaching and service, but our program has been inactive for ten years. 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 both teaching and research and appreciating that we each grow most when we all work together. 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.

Another initiative is increasing the number of gatherings for the section. In addition to our annual meeting, held each spring at a campus in the state, we are looking to add two online lectures. Each fall a talk would be given by a two-year college faculty member, and a four-year college faculty member would speak each spring.

In a similar manner, we are interested in helping with department colloquia in the section. We are looking to gauge interest in departments who would make the colloquia lectures they host available to other departments via zoom. Additionally, we want to create a database of speakers in the section with colloquium lectures they are willing to give (title and abstract) as well as a distance they are willing to travel to deliver such talks.

For all of 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 that the section's programs will grow and thrive.



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.

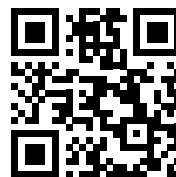
M.A. in Mathematics

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/E0 institution, strongly and actively strives to increase diversity within its community (see <https://www.cmich.edu/aaeo>).

MAA Congress Representative's Report

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

The most exciting thing I have to report is that the new MAA journal Scatterplot is now accepting submissions! Scatterplot is the MAA's journal on data science. You can read all about the journal at <tandfonline.com/journals/usca20>. In particular, the aims and scope can be found at <tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=usca20>.

Data science is an exciting and growing area which is fundamentally interdisciplinary. There are still several open questions about data science and data science education. For us, the most important question is what role mathematics and mathematicians have to play. We

hope that this new journal can help us think about that question as a profession.

As I reported last issue, the MAA Bylaws have been revised. We are now working on harmonizing our practices with the new bylaws, including making transitions as needed. Among the changes is that the section representatives will now serve a 4-year term. In order to transition to the new terms, the MAA has prepared an adjusted schedule for when each section will elect their next section representative. For us, we will elect our next section representative in 2026.

If there is anything you want me to share with the MAA or the MAA Congress, my virtual door is open! I look forward to seeing as many of you in Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti as possible.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Richard Edwards (MSU) <aedwards@msu.edu>

I would like to use my space in the newsletter to personally thank each of you who contributed financially to the support of the Michigan section over the past year, including our growing number of Institutional Members. Your faithfulness in voluntarily paying your dues each year provides the financial stability for our mathematical community. Your dues support the publication of newsletters, the annual Spring meeting, and more. In an age where people are increasingly disconnected, our section remains committed to the ideals of community and collaboration. Your dues make this possible.

For perspective, there are more than 600 members of the Michigan Section of the MAA, yet less than 10% of our members contribute their voluntary dues each year. While we understand there are a variety of reasons why someone may not contribute financially to the section, the Executive Committee plans to focus on increasing such participation this year. Be on the lookout for an announcement coming soon!

If you would like to submit your dues for this academic year, please consider doing so! You may direct online payments using PayPal <paypal.com> to <MichiganSectionDues@gmail.com>.

Please provide your name, institution, mailing address, and email address in the notes for your payment. If you prefer to pay by check, please make checks payable to Michigan Section MAA and send them to:

Prof. Abe Edwards
Michigan State University
919 East Shaw Lane
East Lansing, MI 48825.

The voluntary dues contributions are as follows:

- Individual annual voluntary member donation \$15
- Individual annual sustaining member donation \$30
- Small institution annual donation \$40
- Large institution annual donation \$70

Thanks to all of the individuals, and institutions below who contribute financially to support the mathematical community here in Michigan.

Lawrence Technological University
Be curious. Make magic.



TOGETHER IN THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG MINDS!

Two new interdisciplinary undergraduate programs: The perfect foundation for an exciting and financially rewarding data-driven career for your students:



ACTUARIAL SCIENCE

A dynamic blend of math, stats, programming, economics, and finance. From the STEM Center to Engineering to Business. A competitive edge with early P and FM actuary exam prep, computational skills in R and Python.



DATA SCIENCE

Project-based learning, paid "internship-based credit." From the STEM Center to Engineering to Business. Develop and create programming code. Theory and practice in big data, data mining, data modeling, machine learning, bioinformatics, and artificial intelligence.



Share this link with your students: itu.edu/admissions/apply

From the Origin: The Passing of a Legend

David Friday (Macomb CC) <fridayd@macomb.edu>

I first met **Ruth Favro** in 1999 when I was a junior in high school. I had placed in the top 100 of the Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition (MMPC) and was invited to join the Michigan All Stars to compete in the American Regions Mathematics League (ARML).

It was at my first practice that I got to meet the coaches: head coach **Bob Messer** of Albion College, **John Fink** of Kalamazoo College, and Ruth Favro of Lawrence Technological Institution. The coaches were incredibly supportive and wanted to develop our mathematical powers beyond the high level we had already achieved. After college



David Friday with Ruth Favro

and grad school, I reconnected with the Michigan All Stars via MMPC grading day. Ruth was once more there and encouraged me to come to some ARML practices as somebody who had experience with the team. It was then that I got to become a coach of the Michigan All Stars. Through that experience with the team, I became head coach of the team in 2015, so that Ruth could enjoy her retirement. She did, however, manage to join us for the trip one last time as ARML honored her with the Samuel L. Greitzer award for her lifetime of service to ARML.

Ruth and I worked together very well. She took care of the personal interactions with the students and I took care of the travel arrangements for the trip to Iowa. However, she always seemed intent on making sure that she still served a purpose for the team.

Ruth was passionate about advocating for girls and women in the field of mathematics. Every chance she got, she tried to empower the girls on the team, encouraging them to speak up, be heard, and gain the confidence to contribute to a generally boy-heavy team.

Ruth passed away in December of 2023 at the age of 85. She has left a void within the team that I will do my absolute best to fill. Despite her tiny stature, she has left us with some very big shoes to fill.

For the 2024 ARML season, the Michigan All Stars will be taking a year off to honor Ruth and regroup in her absence. She will be sorely missed by her coaches, her colleagues, and most importantly, her students.

Campus News

Albion College

[Mark Bollman <mbollman@albion.edu>](mailto:mbollman@albion.edu)

Paul Anderson will retire in May after 34 years at Albion.

The Mathematics and Computer Science Department invites our Section colleagues to show their support for mathematics by wearing plaid on International Plaid Day: Friday, April 26. International Plaid Day is observed on the last Friday of Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month.

Calvin College

[John Ferdinands <john.ferdinands@calvin.edu>](mailto:john.ferdinands@calvin.edu)

Dave Klanderman is a coauthor of the book “Using Graphic Novels in the STEM Classroom”, published by Bloomsbury Academic. His coauthors are **William Boerman-Cornell** (Trinity Christian College), **Joshua Ho** (Solutions Engineer at Tableau) and **Sarah Klanderman** (Marian University).

Central Michigan University

[Ben Salisbury <salis1bt@cmich.edu>](mailto:salis1bt@cmich.edu)

Professor **Xiaoming Zheng** received an NSF grant for his project entitled “Numerical Schemes for Fundamental Problems Related to Incompressible Fluids.” Professor **Katrina Piatek-Jimenez** and co-PIs across the university were awarded an NSF ADVANCE Adaptation award. Assistant Professor **Jordan Watts** won the 2023 College of Science and Engineering Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Hope College

[Paul Pearson <pearsonp@hope.edu>](mailto:pearsonp@hope.edu)

The Mathematics and Statistics Department at Hope College welcomed two new faculty, Dr. **Gina Garza-Kling** in elementary math education and Dr. **Gabriel Chen** in statistics, applied mathematics, and data science, in Fall 2023.

Dr. Gina Garza-Kling and Dr. **Jeff Martin** were recently awarded Michigan Space Grant Consortium grants for “Developing Intuitive Multiplication Facts Strategies with Young Students” and “Machine Learning to Advance Nondestructive Inspection and Evaluation with Compton Scattering Tomography”, respectively.

Dr. **Stephanie Edwards** and Dr. **Dyana Harrelson** traveled with students to the Joint Math Meetings and the Nebraska Conference for Women in Mathematics where the students presented their research.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

One of the top biostatistics programs is doing a world of good through cutting-edge research in all areas of applied and theoretical biostatistics, including big data 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. Degrees include master's programs in Biostatistics and Health Data Science, and a PhD program in Biostatistics. Graduates are favored across a variety of employers including universities, governmental agencies, pharmaceutical companies and (bio)tech companies.

APPLY TODAY!
sph.umich.edu/biostat



Oakland University

Tamas Horvath <horvath@oakland.edu>

Professor **Meir Shillor** was recently named a Specialist in the Fulbright-Nehru Program, and he will spend five weeks this summer at the Assam Don Bosco University in Assam, India. He will collaborate on epidemiological models for the optimization of cancer treatments.

Professor **Anna Spagnuolo** will direct the OU Math Jumpstart Program, consisting of two fun week-long summer camps established to help ensure incoming students who are enrolled in 'elementary algebra' in the upcoming fall gain math skills and learn effective study habits necessary to pass the course and have a positive and successful OU experience.

Professor Anna Spagnuolo will direct the OU Math Corps Summer 2024 Program from July 8 to August 2. The OU Math Corps is a free and fun outreach program for middle and high school students from Pontiac and surrounding areas, and it is expected to serve 90 kids this summer to teach them mathematics and serve as a second loving family.

Professor **Eddie Cheng** will run the Oakland University Summer Mathematics Institute in the Summer of 2024, tentatively scheduled from July 1 to August 9. The Summer Mathematics Institute is a free opportunity for bright and gifted pre-college students to interact with university faculty and each other, take some challenging math classes that earn college credit, and have fun in an academic atmosphere. If you are interested in applying, please contact Professor Cheng at <echeng@oakland.edu>.

Professors **Serge Kruk** and **Meir Shillor** are on sabbatical during 2024 Winter.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Mathematics

Mathematics PhD
Mathematics MA
Applied Mathematics MS
Mathematics Education PhD
Mathematics Education MA

The Department of Mathematics offers a small graduate program in Kalamazoo, a small city in beautiful southwest Michigan. Students in mathematics education deepen and extend their understanding of mathematics and its learning and teaching. Through a focus on both theory and practice, these programs enable students to strengthen their classroom effectiveness; to assume leadership roles in curriculum, instruction, and evaluation; and to prepare for faculty positions at colleges and universities. Students in mathematics and applied mathematics extend their mathematical knowledge and prepare to pursue careers in education, industry, and government. Students in all programs learn from each others' expertise.

Currently all supported graduate students receive a tuition waiver. TA stipends range from \$14,178 to \$16,985. Although applications are considered on a rolling basis, applicants seeking financial support should submit their applications before February 15 to be considered for support starting the following fall.

Information: Steve Culver at math-info@wmich.edu or 269-387-4517 or visit <wmich.edu/math>

Application: <wmich.edu/grad/apply>

University of Michigan-Flint

Mehrdad Simkani <simkani@umich.edu>

The 55th Math Field Day was held on March 1.

Awards

Victor Piercey (Ferris SU) Wins 2024 Distinguished Teaching Award

Doug Lapp (CMU) <lapp1da@cmich.edu>

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee Chair

The MAA-Michigan Section's Distinguished Teaching Award Committee is pleased to announce Dr. Victor Piercey of Ferris State University as the recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Dr. Piercey continually works to make mathematics accessible to all by guiding students to see mathematics as a lens through which one views reality. His view of mathematics as a way of thinking which transcends skill-based views of the subject set him apart. He has developed a two-course quantitative reasoning sequence as an alternative to standard algebra which uses an inquiry approach and focuses on communicating and applying mathematical ideas. This work has led to collaborations with colleagues from across campus, other institutions, and a multi-institutional NSF grant. More recently, Dr. Piercey has been developing a sequence in financial math for students majoring in actuarial science in which students grapple with how to apply mathematics in a way that improves the human condition. These are just a few of the projects and initiatives Dr. Piercey is a part of!

On behalf of the Michigan Section of the MAA, congratulations to Dr. Victor Piercey!

Dr. Michele Intermont (Kalamazoo College) Wins 2024 Distinguished Service Award

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Michelle Intermont of Kalamazoo College will be awarded the 2024 Michigan MAA Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Intermont was selected due to her 25+ years of service to the mathematics community, both locally and nationally. Within her department Dr. Intermont has organized and led weekly teatimes and colloquium gatherings for more than twenty years. She often invites speakers from across the region, often providing new mathematicians an opportunity to present their work and form connections with the Michigan math community. Dr. Intermont encourages and guides students as they pursue undergraduate research and apply to graduate schools. Beyond her department, Dr. Intermont has served as an external member of several PhD dissertation committees and as an external reviewer for mathematics departments and tenure cases at peer schools. She has also served as vice-president and president of the Michigan Section of the MAA and has been associate editor of the MAA Reviews online since 2019.

On behalf of the Michigan Section of the MAA, congratulations to Dr. Intermont!

2025 Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations Due December 31, 2024

Nominations for the Michigan Section's 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award are now being accepted, and must be received by December 31, 2024 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 31, 2024 to be considered for the 2025 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 [Sarah Koch \(UM-AA\) <kochsc@umich.edu>](mailto:kochsc@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.

2025 Distinguished Service Award Nominations Due January 31, 2025

[Victor Piercey \(Ferris\) <VictorPiercey@ferris.edu>](mailto:VictorPiercey@ferris.edu)

Nominations are being solicited for the Michigan Section's 2025 Distinguished Service Award.

The awards committee will accept nominations until January 31, 2025.

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 \(Ferris\) <VictorPiercey@ferris.edu>](mailto:VictorPiercey@ferris.edu).

Michigan Section—Mathematical Association of America Committees and Appointments

Executive Committee

<i>Chair</i>	('26) Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC) <oaksj@macomb.edu>
<i>Vice Chair</i>	('24) David Murphy (Hillsdale C) <dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>
<i>Vice Chair</i>	('25) Michael Pemberton (Lansing CC) <pembertmlcc.edu>
<i>Sec.-Treas.</i>	('25) Richard “Abe” Edwards (MSU) <aedwards@msu.edu>
<i>Past Chair</i>	('26) Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU) <ashellge@emich.edu>
<i>Congress Rep.</i>	('25) Victor Piercey (Ferris State U) <piercev1@ferris.edu>

2024 Annual Meeting Program Committee

<i>Chair</i>	Ricardo Alfaro (UM–Flint) <ralfaro@umich.edu>
<i>Member</i>	Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU) <ashellge@emich.edu>
<i>Member</i>	Mark Bollman (Albion C) <mbollman@albion.edu>
<i>Member</i>	Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC) <oaksj@macomb.edu>

Audit Committee

<i>Member</i>	Dan Isaksen (Wayne State U) <isaksen@wayne.edu>
<i>Member</i>	Michael Bolt (Calvin C) <mbolt@calvin.edu>

Other Appointments and Contacts

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

Michigan Section Newsletter

<i>Co-Editor</i>	('26) Clark Wells (GVSU) <wellsc@gvsu.edu>
<i>Co-Editor</i>	('26) Grace McClurkin (SVSU) <gmclurksvsu.edu>
<i>Ad. Manager</i>	Will Dickinson (GVSU) <dickinsw@gvsu.edu>

Distinguished Service Award Committee

<i>Chair</i>	('24) Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU) <ashellge@emich.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('24) Victor Piercey (Ferris State U) <piercev1@ferris.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('24) Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC) <oaksj@macomb.edu>

Distinguished Teaching Award Committee

<i>Chair</i>	('24) Sarah Koch (UM-AA) <kochsc@umich.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('25) Richard “Abe” Edwards (MSU) <aedwards@umich.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('26) Tibor Marcinek (CMU) <marci1t@cmich.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('26) Amy Shell-Gellasch (EMU) <ashellge@emich.edu>

Nominating Committee

<i>Chair</i>	('24) Victor Piercey (Ferris State U) <piercev1@ferris.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('24) Jonathan Oaks (Macomb CC) <oaksj@macomb.edu>
<i>Member</i>	('24) David Murphy (Hillsdale C) <dmurphy@hillsdale.edu>

Calendar of Events

Michigan Section–MAA Annual Meeting

- 2024: UM-AA & EMU
 - 2025: Lake Superior State University
 - 2026*: Saginaw Valley State University
- *tentative

MAA MathFest

- 2024: Indianapolis, IN, August 7–10
<maa.org/meetings/mathfest>
- 2025: Sacramento, CA, August 6–9
- 2026: Boston, MA, August 5–8
- 2027: New Orleans, LA, August 4–7
- 2028: San Diego, CA, August 2–5

AMS Joint Mathematics Meetings

- 2025: Seattle, WA, January 8–10
<jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>
- 2026: Washington, D.C., January 4–7

AMATYC Annual Conference

- 2024: Atlanta, GA, November 14–17
<<https://amatyc.org/page/Conferences>>
- 2025: Reno, NV, November 13–16
- 2026: Philadelphia, PA, November 19–22
- 2027: Spokane, WA, November 11–14
- 2028: Phoenix, AZ, November 9–12

NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition

- 2024: Chicago, IL, September 25–28
<<https://www.nctm.org/annualmeeting/>>
- 2025: Atlanta, GA, October 15–18