

## Welcome to the PNW MAA: New Faculty

*This fall our section is excited to welcome several new faculty. Our newest Section NExT fellow is Natalie Naehrig (University of Washington). We also welcome Project NExT fellow Alexander Moll (Reed College). Other new faculty in the section include Elio Zhang and Galen Egan at Seattle University, who will support their MS in Data Science.*

### Natalie Naehrig



Natalie Naehrig is an Assistant Teaching Professor at the University of Washington since Autumn 2019. In her role as faculty, she implements student centered teaching approaches in her classes with the goal to put 'learning' rather than 'teaching' in focus and thereby to make mathematics education more equitable, diverse and inclusive. She is also in the leadership team of the newly opened COMMIT PNW chapter, a regional

network of math educators who are interested in evidence-based teaching methods.

She received her PhD from Aachen University, Germany, and moved with her family to the United States in 2012. She has four boys (23,21,13,10) and two dogs who keep her busy and active. She loves Duolingo and can be found there as user 'FiniteFields'.

## Oregon State University: Jonathan Kujawa

The College of Science at Oregon State University is welcoming a new Department Head of Mathematics, Dr. Jonathan Kujawa. Dr. Kujawa will be joining the department in January, coming from the University of Oklahoma. More information is available in the Oregon State's <https://science.oregonstate.edu/impact/2023/09/college-of-science-welcomes-new-hartmann-faculty-scholar-as-incoming-department-0>. Please welcome Dr. Kujawa to our section.

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### Section NExT News

by MEGAN BUZBY

Applications to Section NExT for new faculty members will be due February 16, 2024, although applicants are welcome to submit their application sooner. More details can be found on the PNW Section website or feel free to contact Megan Buzby at [mbuzby1@alaska.edu](mailto:mbuzby1@alaska.edu) with questions.

### Section Awards 2023

At the spring meeting, our section celebrated the following anniversaries and awards:

#### 25-year award

Brian Gill  
Christopher Hallstrom  
Brian Blitz  
Anthony Wiggins

#### 50-year award

Ian Goddard  
Michael Chamberlain

#### Distinguished Teaching Award

Ksenija Simić-Muller

## Distinguished Teaching Award

by CHRISTINE COLE

Dr. Ksenija Simić-Muller (Pacific Lutheran University) is the winner of the 2023 Distinguished Teaching Award for the Pacific Northwest Section of the MAA.



The short narrative from her nomination letter is included below:

“Imagine a dedicated, hard-working, inspiring, and inclusive educator; you’ve pictured Dr. Ksenija Simic-Muller. Ksenija has taught a wide variety of courses, engaging with thousands of students. Given her expertise in Math Education, one of her primary roles is to teach the Mathematical Methods class for Math Ed. majors and grad students as well as classes for our elementary education majors. She encourages broad involvement from all students and creates a welcoming class environment where students thrive. Ksenija possesses an impressive ability to connect deeply with her students on both a personal and professional level; I am constantly amazed by the way she helps students grow throughout their college career.

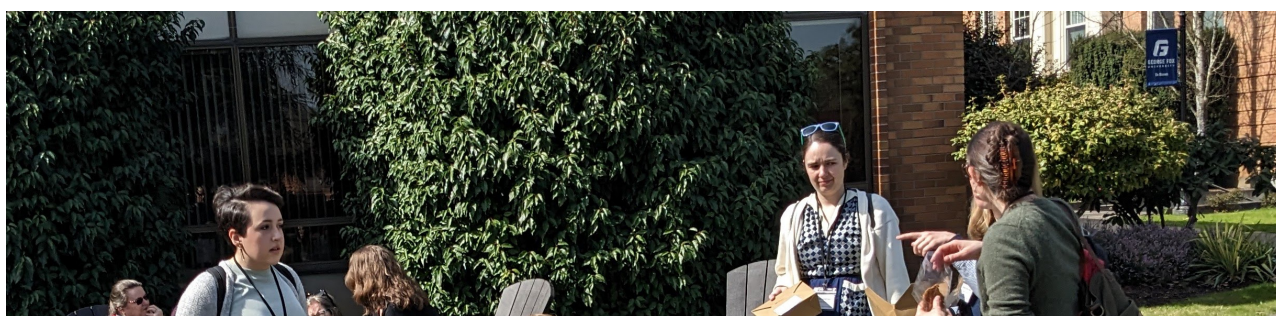
Ksenija received our university-wide mentoring award in 2017 not only for this ability to connect with students, but also for her work guiding us, her colleagues. Ksenija relentlessly

challenges the department to reflect on best practices. She advocates for all students and has been a leader as we adapt to the changing demographics of the university to ensure we approach our teaching with an equity and inclusion lens. I am thankful to have her as a colleague; her expertise has helped me improve my craft—she is the first person I ask for advice, and she always provides me with invaluable and applicable techniques. She was an unbelievable force of stability during the challenges brought on by the pandemic as our department chair. Her excellent teaching of our math majors and future educators demonstrates her influence that reaches far beyond our university and has had a positive impact on the greater Puget Sound region. I can think of no one better to nominate for this award.”

Please join us in congratulating Ksenija!

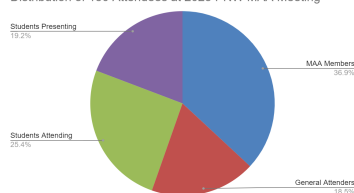
## Pacific Northwest MAA March Meeting 2023 Recap

by CORBAN HARWOOD

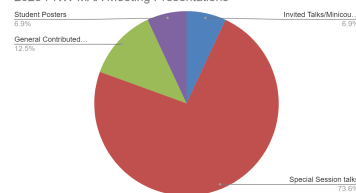


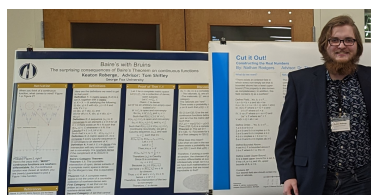
On March 18 and 19, 2023, George Fox University hosted the PNW MAA annual spring meeting. Total attendance was 130 people, with 44.62% of attendees being students and 55.38% non-students. There were a total of 72 presentations. Twenty-two of the presentations included at least one student speaker.

Distribution of 130 Attendees at 2023 PNW MAA Meeting



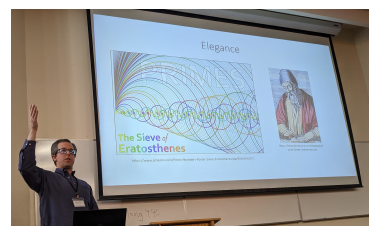
2023 PNW MAA Meeting Presentations





Heather Kitada Smalley gave a mini-course on Intro to R for Data Analysis. The plenary talks were "Geometry of the Earth and Universe with The

Simpsons and Futurama" by Sarah Greenwald, "Beauty at the Heart of the Mathematics Classroom" by Matt DeLong and "Students considering Non-Academic Careers? – Help!" by Allen Butler.



## Announcement: PNW MAA Spring Meeting 2024, June

The Pacific Northwest Section of the MAA will be having their next section meeting **June 20-22, 2024**. The meeting will be held at *University of Alaska Anchorage*. Additional details will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.

Further information will be available soon on <https://www.uaa.alaska.edu/academics/college-of-arts-and-sciences/programs/pnwmaa/>

### Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations are due November 1, 2023. Initial nominating materials (the first page of the Nomination Form) are due to the Section Secretary/Treasurer in early November of each year. Complete materials are usually due from selected semi-finalists in early January of the following year. See MAA Connect for more details.

- Eligibility requirements and Nomination form:

<https://maa.org/member-communities/maa-awards/teaching-awards/haimo-award-distinguished-teaching>

## Northwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium

by NATHAN GIBSON



NUMS will be held online this fall on Saturday, Nov 11. Registration is open at [nums.math.oregonstate.edu](https://nums.math.oregonstate.edu) and close Friday Nov 3. There

will be no registration fee, however, all participants, whether planning to present or not, need to register. An in person meeting will be held at OSU in April 2024.

The deadline for submitting abstracts and for participant registration for the symposium will close on November 3, 2023. For more information contact Nathan Gibson at [nums@math.oregonstate.edu](mailto:nums@math.oregonstate.edu).

### A note from the editor

If you have any major changes in your department or University, I'd love to highlight them in an upcoming "University Spotlight" column. Please email me with any contribu-

tions or other section news.

## JOIN OUR COMMITTEE

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ARTICULATION AND PLACEMENT

#### CURRENT TOPICS



- Are you curious about Calculus 1 corequisites?
- Are you interested in best practices for multiple measures placement?
- Do you wonder how Data Science will impact transfer and articulation?

#### WHO WE NEED

MAA's Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) is looking for members to join from both two and four-year institutions for a three-year term (to meet 3-4 times per year).

**APPLY NOW**