PNW MAA Spring Meeting: University of Alaska Anchorage

2024 PNW Sectional MAA Meeting
University of Alaska Anchorage
June 20-22, 2024

We look forward to seeing you in Alaska this June for the PNW MAA section meeting. If you haven’t already, please register for the meeting here: portal.maa.org.

For more information and a full schedule visit the conference webpage: http://www.math.uaa.alaska.edu/afmaf/SectionMeeting/maa-pnwsection-meeting.html

Program highlights include

- Contributed talk sessions
- Four plenary talks, including Thursday talk open to the public
  - Ethnomathematics: the connection between culture, history, and mathematics. Ximena Catepillán, Millersville University
  - Ethnomathematics and Kinship Systems. Ximena Catepillán, Millersville University
  - 500 Years of Data Science. Michael Pearson, Executive Director - MAA
  - Graphs and Hypergraphs and Topology, Oh My! Emilie Purvine, PNNL
- Business Meeting - Friday, June 21, 12:15-1:30, BMH 235
  - Vote on updates to our section Bylaws (see below for details about our Bylaws update)
  - Vote on a new section Chair
  - Learn more about business of the MAA and the section
  - Meet your section officers and consider serving your section
- Friday evening reception (food provided)
  - The reception includes our celebration of awards including section anniversaries, the Distinguished Teaching Award, and welcoming new Section NExT fellows
Distinguished Teaching Award - Dr. Jean Marie Linhart

by CHRISTINE COLE

I am pleased to share that Dr. Jean Marie Linhart, from Central Washington University, is the winner of the 2024 PNW Section Distinguished Teaching Award.

Here are some excerpts from Jean Marie's nomination:

Dr. Linhart is a caring and student-centered teacher, who uses backwards design in her teaching to best serve her students. One clear marker of her excellent teaching is her success with implementation of Mastery Based Testing in her discrete mathematics and other courses, which was inspired by her observation of student struggles, and now contributes to their enthusiasm and success. Students frequently comment that her course structure helps them learn and motivates them to try harder. Her work has inspired other instructors at Central Washington University to implement Mastery Based Testing within their own courses. She also shares her successes in the classroom with the broader mathematical community by publishing articles in PRIMUS, presenting at section meetings, and by developing curricular materials for SIMODE.

Students from her math modeling and discrete math courses regularly present on their work at Central Washington University events, as well as at the Pacific Northwest Section meeting of the MAA, and MathFest. Two of the students she has mentored in undergraduate research have won SIAM student speaker awards for presentations at MathFest, and one went on to receive a Goldwater scholarship.

Dr. Linhart exemplifies the Central Washington University Motto "Learn. Do. Live," and we see this in her excellent teaching, her willingness to go above and beyond what's required, and her ability to connect with students and provide them with the instruction and caring they need to succeed. Her commitment to quality teaching has made a real difference in the lives of her students and has inspired other instructors' teaching.

NExT News: Spring Meeting

by MEGAN BUZBY

The Section NExT portion of our section meeting is Thursday, June 20, 2024. Details about the program will be shared on the Section NExT listserv. Contact Megan Buzby with questions (mbuzby1@alaska.edu). We look forward to seeing you in Alaska!

A note from the editor

by KATE KEARNEY

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 contributions or other section news.
PNW MAA Bylaws Update

by BRIAN BLITZ

*Business Meeting: Friday, June 21, 12:15-1:30 pm, BMH 235*

Every ten years the MAA requires each Section to update their bylaws. This provides the Section the opportunity to ensure that their practices are consistent with the bylaws by either reforming the practice or amending the bylaws. In addition, the review process assures that Section bylaws are compliant with current MAA policies and any legal requirements. The MAA bylaws template was updated in 2021, so many of the changes align our bylaws with the new template.

Bylaws Committee: Brian Blitz (chair), Chris Black, Leanne Merrill

**Proposed bylaws to be voted on at the Anchorage meeting**

The link above shows the proposed bylaws revisions, with sections highlighted to indicate changes. A summary of some of the more substantial changes is also listed below. Yellow highlights: original changes to the bylaws. Green highlights: changes based on feedback from the national MAA Committee on Section Bylaws.

**Article I, II, III:** Updating our bylaws to match the updated bylaws template.

**Article IV:**

- Clarify the election years for the Secretary-Treasurer.
- Minor changes to the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Web Manager.
- Added a quorum of five for Executive Committee meetings.
- Added the procedure for replacing the Section Representative to Congress.

**Article V:** Changed “ten days” to “twenty days” for notifying section members of regular or special meetings.

**Article VI:**

- Changed the title to match the template.
- Added “section meeting fees” and gave the power to the Executive Committee rather than just the Secretary-Treasurer.
- Changed the verbiage from “at least $250” to “request up to $750” for the Chair (or representative) to attend the Section Officers Meeting.

**Article VII:** No changes

**Article VIII:**

- Changed the threshold to amend the bylaws from “a majority of the votes” to “2/3 of the votes”.
- Notify members of the section at least twenty days (it was ten days) before voting on an amendment.