Welcome to the PNW MAA: New Faculty

This fall our section is excited to welcome several new faculty. Our newest Section NExT fellow is Nicole Seaders (Linn Benton Community College). We also welcome several new Project NExT fellows: Sarah Kerrigan (George Fox University), Silvia Madrid (Gonzaga University), Marissa Masden (University of Puget Sound), Casey Pinckney (Carroll College), Asmita Sodhi (University of Victoria) and Madeleine Weinstein (University of Puget Sound). Other new faculty in the section include Eric Friedlander at College of Idaho.

Sarah Kerrigan

Sarah Kerrigan is an assistant professor of mathematics at George Fox University starting in 2022. She did her undergraduate work at Oregon State University (2015) before attending Virginia Tech for her Masters and PhD in mathematics (2018 and 2022). Her area of research is Mathematics Education with a specialization in modeling mathematical cognition. She currently lives in Newberg, Oregon with her dog Thistle and enjoys running and hiking with her dog, board game nights with friends, being an aunt to her wonderful nieces and nephews.

Silvia Madrid

Silvia Madrid has been a Lecturer at the Department of Mathematics at Gonzaga University since Fall 2023. She teaches various courses, from college algebra to differential equations, probability and statistics courses, and applied linear algebra.

She is delighted to be a Project Next 2024 fellow, as it supports her professional development as a mathematics teacher while allowing her to connect with other fellows who share her love for teaching and her students' learning. Her current teaching goals are becoming more adept at orchestrating mathematical discussions and increasing student engagement through active learning strategies.

She received her PhD at Washington State University in 2021. Her current research area is mathematics education. She has also been interested in applied mathematics since she was an undergraduate at UNAM in Mexico and a graduate student at the University of Arizona. She loves walks and listening to audiobooks.

Marissa Masden

Marissa Masden is a first-year assistant professor in mathematics and data analytics at the University of Puget Sound. Her research interests are, broadly, towards developing computational tools in topology, geometry, and combinatorics in support of the mathematical and natural sciences, including data science.

A lifelong Pacific Northwesterner, Marissa earned her Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Oregon, with a dissertation about topological properties of neural network functions. She was then an Institute postdoctoral fellow at ICERM, where she participated in the semester program on Math and Neuroscience, before beginning her current position. Outside of math, Marissa enjoys board games, good coffee, and science fiction.

Casey Pinckney

Casey Pinckney is an assistant professor at Carroll College in the mathematics department. She was previously at the University of Maine and Colorado State University. She find joy in combinatorics and algebra, always looks forward to sharing with students, and is always on the lookout for anybody who wants to work on a project or talk math together.

Madeleine Weinstein

Maddie Weinstein is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of Puget Sound. She received her PhD at the University of California Berkeley and was a postdoc at Stanford University. Her research is in algebraic geometry. Originally from the Seattle area, she is happy to be back in the PNW, where she enjoys rock climbing and walking her dog Pumpkin Pi.

Mathematical Matters

Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Section of the MAA

In This Issue...

Section NExT News

by MEGAN BUZBY

Applications to Section NExT for new faculty members will be due December 15, 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 with questions.

New Editor of Mathematics Magazine: Gordon Williams

by LEAH BERMAN

Congratulations to Gordon Williams, in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, who is just starting as the Editor of Mathematics Magazine! Gordon has been working at UAF for 15 years, with research interests primarily in the realm of abstract polytopes and discrete geometry. He completed his PhD in 2002 under the supervision of Branko Grünbaum, and before joining the faculty at UAF, he worked on the east coast at Moravian College and Ursinus College, where he was a member of the EPADel section of the MAA. When he's not doing math or teaching, he enjoys woodworking, especially bowl turning and furniture making, and cooking for and spending time with his family.

The UAF Department of Mathematics and Statistics is very excited to have Gordon working with Mathematics Magazine, and we look forward to hearing about all the exciting, accessible mathematics articles and proofs without words that show up in the journal!

Northwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium

by NATHAN GIBSON

The 17th annual Northwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium was held at Portland State University on Saturday Nov 2, 2024, co-hosted by OSU. The link to the conference site is `https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/nums2024`. Due to PME and MAA funding, there was no registration fee for this conference. The Keynote Presentation was given by Hannah Kravitz, PSU. Following the Keynote Presentation, there were three sessions featuring 15-minute undergraduate student presentations, as well as informal social breaks including lunch and afternoon snack. There were 50 participants and 21 student presentations. Presentation Prizes were awarded to:
Theoretical:
1) Lila Goldman (WWU) "Chutes and Ladders as a Markov Process"
2) Gemma Bertain (UPS) "Reduced Trip Permutations of Plabic Graphs"

Applied:
1) Anna Singley (UP) "Network Analysis of Collaboration in Mathematics"
2) Shosuke Kiami (UW) "Stochastic Dynamical System"

The next NUMS meeting will be Fall 2025, location TBA.

Corban Harwood: Chair-Elect

Corban Harwood was voted in as PNW-MAA Section Chair-Elect at the June 2024 meeting at University of Alaska Anchorage. Corban is Professor of Mathematics and Chair of the Mathematics & Data Analytics Department at George Fox University. His teaching centers around project-based learning, while his research centers around stability and oscillatory analysis of numerical methods, both connected through mathematical modeling and undergraduate research. "My journey with mathematics began as a solitary intellectual exercise, but going with a group from Whitworth College to my first conference (a PNW-MAA meeting) I was in awe of a place where there were discussions about mathematics in room after room. I learned that mathematics is best in community." Corban has been active in the section (and Project NExT / Section NExT) since starting his career in 2011 and recently hosted the 2023 PNW-MAA meeting.

As part of the 4-year cycle of the Section Chair Role, Corban will transition to Section Chair after the April 2025 meeting at University of Washington-Tacoma. Before the 2026 meeting we will be looking for nominations for a Chair-Elect for the 2026-2030 cycle, and in a couple months that will be just a year away!

Announcement: PNW MAA Spring Meeting 2025, April 25-26

The Pacific Northwest Section of the MAA will be having their next section meeting **April 25-26, 2025**. The meeting will be held at *University of Washington - Tacoma*. Plenary speakers include Hortensia Soto (MAA President, Colorado State University), Candice Price (Smith College), and Steven Klee (Amazon Web Services). Additional details will be available in the next issue of the newsletter.
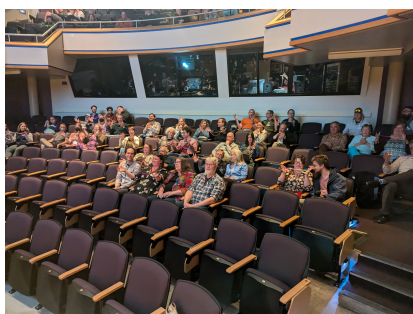
Pacific Northwest MAA June Meeting 2024 Recap

by MARK FITCH

Members of the Pacific Northwest Section of the MAA and others came together from 24th to the 26th of June at the University of Alaska Anchorage. They experienced the best weather Alaska can offer and the tourists crowds and pricing that come with it.

Section NExT activities began Wednesday evening with a picnic at the home of former Section NExT director Jenny McNulty who is now dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UAA. Section NExT continued Thursday morning with a mix of discussions and presentations on current topics in math pedagogy. Conference attendees enjoyed some local outings in the afternoon including enjoying the great outdoors and checking out local culture.

Guest speakers for the conference included Ximena Catepillan (Ethnomathematics: the connection between culture, history, and mathematics, and Ethnomathematics and Kinship Systems), Michael Pearson (500 Years of Data Science), and Emilie Purvine (Graphs and Hypergraphs and Topology, Oh My!). As of Saturday afternoon there were still some attendees trying to work out the complex string patterns demonstrated by Ximena Thursday evening which we take as a good sign everyone enjoyed the conference.

In total there were 55 faculty and 7 students attended the meeting giving a total of 32 talks. What will you do at next year's conference?

Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations

Nominations are currently open for the 2025 Distinguished Teaching Award for the MAA Pacific Northwest Section.

Preliminary nominations are due by November 30, 2024.

Preliminary nominations only require filling out the first section of the Haimo nomination form, which consists of collecting some demographic information about the nominee and writing a short abstract summarizing how the nominee meets the evaluation criteria in the context of their institution and its teaching expectations and resources. Please note that seven years of teaching a mathematical science is required for eligibility.

The DTA committee will select two to three semifinalists. The nominators of the semi-finalists will be asked to complete a full nomination packet, including letters of recommendation, by **February 1st, 2025.**

The winner of the section award will be nominated for the national MAA Deborah & Franklin Tepper Haimo Award. Up to three Haimo Awards are given each year. Recipients of the Haimo Award receive $1,000, partial support for travel to MAA MathFest, and a certificate of recognition. Note that new semi-finalists who do not receive the award will automatically remain in consideration for the next two nomination cycles.

To submit a preliminary nomination:

- Consult the eligibility requirements to ensure that your nominee is eligible.

- Nominate your colleague by downloading and completing only the first section of the nomination form. (So stop after your signature and date.)Include the nomination form and narrative as described in the directions.

- Email your nomination to the section Secretary: Christine Cole.

If you have any questions about the process, please reach out to Christine Cole via email at colech@seattleu.edu.

- Eligibility requirements and Nomination form:
  `https://maa.org/member-communities/maa-awards/teaching-awards/haimo-award-distinguished-teaching`

Pacific Inland Mathematics Undergraduate Conference

by AMY YIELDING

Save the Date! Eastern Oregon University is pleased to host the 7th annual Pacific Inland Mathematics Undergraduate Conference (PiMUC) on Saturday April 5th, 2025.

PiMUC is a wonderful opportunity for undergraduate students in the Pacific Northwest Inland Region to present their work including, but not limited to: senior capstones, individual research projects, and original solutions to mathematical contests. Topics in every area of mathematical sciences are welcome including: theoretical math, applied math, statistics, data science, and math education. For more info and conference registration please investigate the PiMUC 2025 website. Questions? Contact Dr Amy Yielding at ayielding@eou.edu.

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. If you are interested in becoming our next section newsletter editor, please get in touch!

PNW Section Trivia

One of the Easternmost points in the PNW Section of the MAA is Akimiski Island, Nunavut, Canada. It is an uninhabited island in James Bay and home to the Akimiski Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary. As part of Nunavut, the island belongs to the PNW section, according to `https://maa.org/community/sections/`