HOM SIGMAA News

Greetings from the HOM SIGMAA Chair

Next year, we will hold elections for the offices of Secretary/Treasurer and Program Coordinator. Cynthia Huffman is serving a third consecutive term as Secretary/ Treasurer and will not serve a fourth term. Please consider joining the SIGMAA governance team or suggest names if you know someone who could be nominated for these important roles, we are constantly looking for people to be involved.

HOM SIGMAA Chair Ximena Catepillán (right) accepting the prestigious MAA Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics at MathFest 2025.

Beginning in October we will have a great slate of speakers for our **2025–2026 SIGMAA HOM Virtual Speaker Series,** the talks will be held on first Fridays in the Fall, and second Fridays in the Spring at 3:00 p.m. Eastern U.S. time zone. If you have any suggestions for speakers for our Virtual Speaker Series, please contact Abe Edwards at aedwards@msu.edu, the HOM SIGMAA Program Coordinator. More information is later in this newsletter. Our Electronic Resources Coordinator, Bud Boman, is soliciting History of Mathematics Course Outlines and library resources for the HOM SIGMAA page.

The Student Paper Contest is being discontinued due to the small number of submissions the past few years. Amy Schell-Gellasch has been on and off in charge since 2004 and we thank her for doing such a fine job at coordinating the contest. If anyone is interested in taking care of the contest, please contact Amy at ashellg@umich.edu.

The Al-Khwarizmi Student Paper Contest in the History of Mathematics during the Islamic Civilization, "8th-16th Century" has a deadline for submission on November 17, 2025. However, we have not had a single submission since the beginning of the contest, therefore, it will be discontinued if no submissions are received this year.
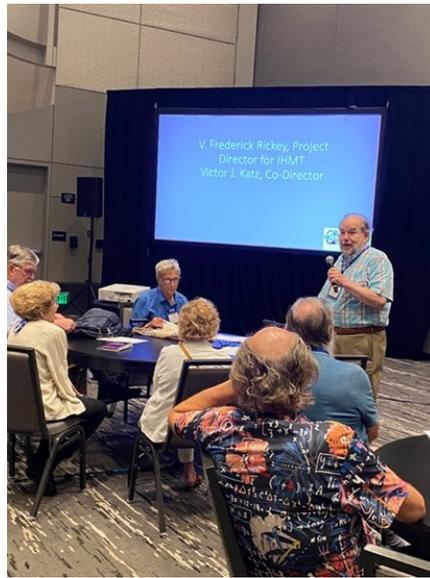
At MathFest 2025 in Sacramento, CA, August 6-9, History of Mathematics was present in numerous events including talks, sessions, workshops, prizes and awards, panels, readings, a business meeting, and a trivia contest. You can find a detailed listing starting on page 11 of this newsletter.

Chair letter continued from previous page:

Some pictures at MathFest 2025.

Invited session: The Institute on the History of Mathematics and its Use in Teaching: 30 Years of Impact on Education and Research.
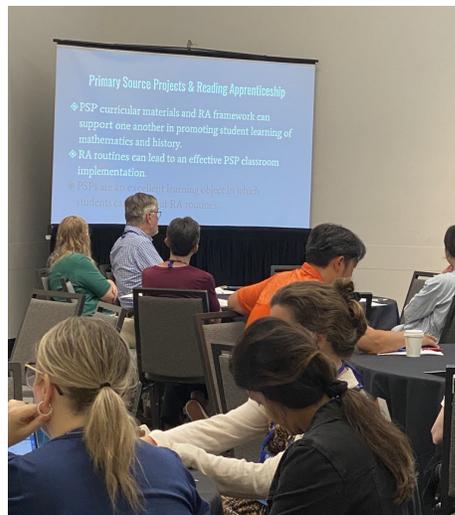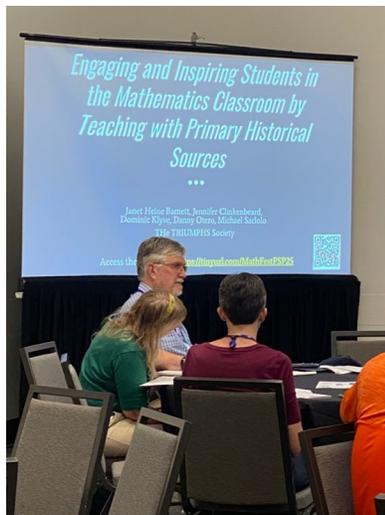
Workshop: Engaging and Inspiring Students in the Mathematics Classroom by Teaching with Primary Source Projects
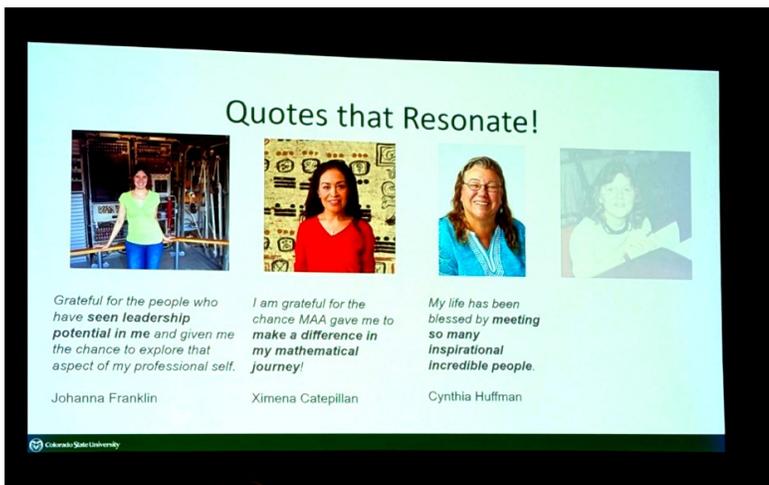
Two HOM SIGMAA officers were mentioned at Hortensia Soto's Retiring Presidential Address!

Chair letter continued from previous page:

Left: Victor Katz giving his presentation at the HOM SIGMAA reception and business meeting.
Right: Special Session, **Notable Events in the Histories of the 29 Sections of the MAA.**

Everyone had a good time at the Trivia event.

I was delighted to receive the **Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Distinguished Service Award.**

I must confess that it was my best MathFest ever!

Ximena

Archives and Committees

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

Have you ever wondered where to find the MAA's primary-source documents? A contract signed in 1978 (pp. 125–129) transferred the organization's historical records to the Archives of American Mathematics (AAM) in Austin, TX. (Similarly, the AMS signed a contract with Brown University in 1986; federal grants in 1988 and 1989 got that archive up and running.) The collection currently consists of 611 boxes organized into 7 series that can be accessed upon request to the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin. For those who were asking at MathFest, the archive does collect materials on the histories of the sections. In addition to the MAA, the archive holds the historical records of other organizations, such as the honor societies Pi Mu Epsilon and Kappa Mu Epsilon, and cares for the personal and professional papers of numerous individual mathematicians.

Once formally-deposited archives became part of both societies' activities, it was natural to involve members in the management and oversight of these activities. AMS established an Archives Committee by 1989, and an AMS-MAA Joint Committee on Archives followed in 1990. Notably, the MAA never established a separate committee, while AMS Archives Committee members typically served on both committees simultaneously. And, both committees essentially had the same charge (although the AMS Archives Committee charge has since been somewhat streamlined):

> The committee has a three-fold purpose:
> (1) To stimulate the preservation of the papers of mathematicians and mathematical institutions, as well as other papers of interest, at appropriate archives locally or nationally.
> (2) To serve as a contact between archivists and mathematicians (or their survivors) in evaluating materials proposed for deposition.
> (3) To serve as liaison among the AMS, the MAA and their designated archivists at Brown University and the University of Texas at Austin, respectively.

In the first decades of the World Wide Web, the joint committee participated in the AMS's Math on the Web project, directed by Patrick Ion, and, to a lesser extent, in MAA's MathDL ("DL" denoted "Digital Library"). The Math on the Web "as History" page contained several links, including a list of collections in the US of mathematicians' papers and other mathematics documents. Several years ago, Albert C. Lewis moved the list to AAM's *Wikipedia* page, where anyone may add entries. During its existence, the committee also advocated for digitization of the AMS archives finding aids (which still have only catalog entries online) and partnered with other historically-focused websites, such as Math Forum and the Mathematics Genealogy Project.

In part because of the duplication of members and actions with the AMS Archives Committee, the Joint Committee was dissolved in 2023. However, the MAA continues to be involved in activities of archival interest—for instance, MAA Executive Director Michael Pearson recently arranged for material reflecting former MAA president Henry Pollak's long career, mainly at

Archives and Committees continued from previous page

Bell Labs, to be moved from his home to the archive. It could also be useful to develop and maintain a list of places where mathematicians might inquire about preserving their papers or seeing that their personal libraries find new homes. Thus, Albert, Eileen Poiani, and Chris Stevens have asked the Board of Directors (BoD) to establish an MAA Archives Committee. A draft charge is below. If you support the formation of this committee, please feel free to drop a note to BoD, especially President Jenna Carpenter and Secretary Cindy Wyels. If you have suggestions for editing the charge, please reach out to Albert Lewis.

(1) To act as liaison between the MAA and the Archives of American Mathematics in recognition of the 1978 agreement between the MAA and the University of Texas at Austin. (This could involve, for example, providing publicity and maintaining awareness of records preservation practices among MAA officers and editors.)

(2) To encourage the preservation of papers of mathematicians and mathematical institutions, as well as other papers of interest, at appropriate archives locally or nationally.

(3) To serve as a contact between archivists and mathematicians (or their survivors) in determining materials proposed for deposition.

2025 HOM SIGMAA Executive Committee

Chair: Ximena Catepillán, Millersville University

Email: Ximena.Catepillan@millersville.edu

Secretary/Treasurer: Cynthia Huffman, Pittsburg State University

Email: cjhuffman@pittstate.edu

Program Coordinator: Abe Edwards, Lyman Briggs College within Michigan State University,

Email: aedwards@msu.edu

Electronic Resources Coordinator: Eugene (Bud) Boman, Penn State, Harrisburg (Emeritus),

Email: budboman@gmail.com

Past Chair: Amy Shell-Gellasch, University of Michigan,

Email: ashellg@umich.edu

HOM SIGMAA VIRTUAL SPEAKER SERIES
Contributed by Abe Edwards, HOM SIGMAA Program Coordinator

I am excited to share information about the virtual speaker series in the history of mathematics. For the upcoming academic year, talks will occur on selected Fridays. The tentative schedule is below. I will send more information about the speakers, and an abstract of their talk, prior to each meeting. We anticipate that each session will last one hour, including time for Q&A. *All talks will take place over Zoom (see link below) at 3:00 p.m. Eastern U.S. time zone.*

October 3: Saša Papović (Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts)

November 7: Francisco A. González Redondo (Universidad Complutense, Madrid)

December 5: Eugene Boman (Pennsylvania State University) and Robert Rogers (State University of New York, Fredonia)

February 13: James Sellers (University of Minnesota, Duluth)

March 13: Dwight Anderson Williams II (Morgan State University)

April 4: Colette Chilton-Carr (Florida Atlantic University)

Meetings will be held on Zoom, using the link and passcode below:

Link: https://msu.zoom.us/j/94740679958
Meeting ID: 947 4067 9958
Passcode: Cardano

HOM SIGMAA Student Travel Grants Available

HOM SIGMAA is pleased to announce travel grants to graduate and undergraduate students. Money is available to help students travel to meetings to present a paper or poster in the history of mathematics. Details can be found at the end of the newsletter and in the HOM SIGMAA community on MAA Connect.

Winner of the 2025 Student Writing Contest

First place in the 2025 HOM SIGMAA Student Writing Contest goes to Jenna Slusser of California State University, Monterey Bay for "Accessibility, Artistry, and Mathematics: A Visual Proof of Heron's Result," an insightful and creative look at Heron's formula in the style of Oliver Byrne's 1847, *First Six Books of the Elements of Euclid in Which Coloured Diagrams and Symbols Are Used Instead of Letters for the Greater Ease of Learners.*

Jenna will receive a student membership to the MAA and HOM SIGMAA, a handful of fun math/math history books, and have her paper posted on the HOM SIGMAA website and on *Convergence* in the near future.

Congratulations to our winner Jenna Slusser and all students who submitted for the contest.

After 22 successful years, it was decided that the Student Writing Contest will be on an indefinite hiatus. The incredible passion and dedication of our past participants has been a source of great inspiration, and we are grateful for everyone who has contributed to the contest's success. This pause is an opportunity to explore how we can make future competitions even more impactful.

A huge "Thank You" to Amy Shell-Gellasch for launching the contest and running it for many years. Thanks also to other past Prize Coordinators, Ed Sandifer (deceased), Herb Kasube, Dominic Klyve, and Dorothee Blum, and to the contest judges for your service! And thanks to all the students who have participated, along with their professors! Without you, there wouldn't have been a contest.

HOM Events Calendar

Visit [History of Mathematics Events Calendar](#) for a list of events and meetings around the world which relate to the History of Mathematics. To list an event, email historyofmathcalendar@gmail.com.

Save these dates for future MathFests!

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
2030	New York, NY	August 7-10

Small grants for the history of mathematics classroom

HOM members who need some help to purchase items for use in the teaching of the history of mathematics are encouraged to apply for a small grant. Information on how to apply can be found on our website https://homsigmaa.net/ and at the end of this newsletter.

MAA Convergence, Settling In

Daniel E. Otero and Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, Editors

Editors, *MAA Convergence*

The MAA's refereed online journal for the use of the history of mathematics to teach mathematics continues to build up its presence within the Taylor & Francis (T&F) suite of MAA subscription journals. Visit https://maa.org/publication/convergence/, click on the "Login to Read" button, enter your MAA membership credentials, and click on the "Read Now" button to access our 2025 publications.

These include "Welcome to *MAA Convergence*," in which we recap the history and context of this unique periodical at the occasion of our recent move to T&F. "Historically Speaking" series editor Betty Mayfield presents a fifth installment that shares Dan Curtin's commentary on three columns written by Phillip S. Jones in 1954 on the theme of "Complex Numbers: An Example of Recurring Themes in the Development of Mathematics." The first Mathematical Treasure in our new location features images from Brook Taylor's 1715 *Methodus Incrementorum Directa et Inversa,* brought to our readers by Kyle Riley of the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Babbage and Gauss, *MAA Convergence* Portrait Gallery.

Michael Molinsky provides commentaries on two additional quotations about mathematics and mathematicians for his series of "Quotations in Context":

"Errors using inadequate data are much less than those using no data at all," attributed to Charles Babbage;

"When a philosopher says something that is true, then it is trivial. When he says something that is not trivial, then it is false," attributed to Carl Friederich Gauss.
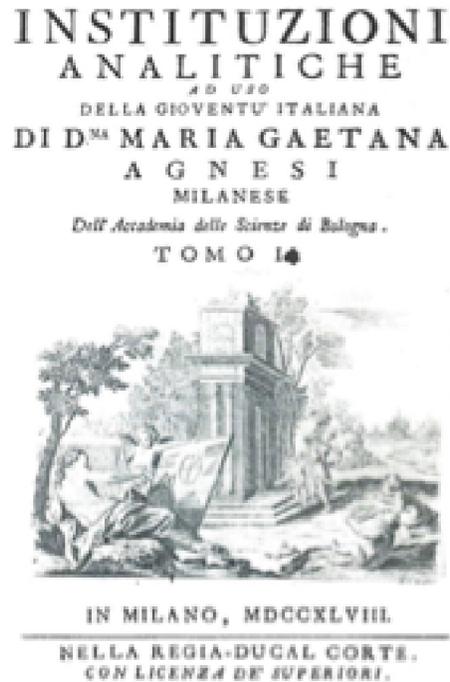
Title page from Agnesi's *Instituzioni analitche*, vol. 1. [Internet Archive](#).

And, the long-running series of mini-Primary Source Projects from the TRIUMPHS team's [A Series of Mini-projects from TRansforming Instruction in Undergraduate Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources](#) has come to an end with its 34th and 35th installments:

> "Three Hundred Years of Helping Others: Three Mini-Primary Source Projects for Precalculus Students," with guided readings on exponents, the Rational Root Theorem, and simplification of radicals from volume 1 of Maria Gaetana Agnesi's 1748 *Instituzioni Analitche ad Uso della Gioventù Italiana*, by Kenneth M Monks;

> "From Sets to Metric Spaces to Topological Spaces: A Mini-Primary Source Project for Topology Students," by Nicholas A. Scoville, which allows students to experience Felix Hausdorff's foundational contributions to point-set topology through set theory and axiomatization.

The T&F portal for submissions, ScholarOne Manuscripts, is ready to receive your contributions on using the history of mathematics to teach mathematics. Please review our [Aims & Scope Statement](#) for updated descriptions of the types of articles we publish. (Note that the article charges listed there are **not** required unless you or your institution would like to have your article available through Open Access.) T&F also provides [Instructions for Authors](#) that will help your submission get through the initial checks before the manuscript makes its way to the editorial staff.

As you may read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are also pleased to announce that Bud Boman has assumed the management of *MAA Convergence*'s long-running calendar of events relevant to the history of mathematics and its use in teaching on behalf of HOM SIGMAA. Visit

https://homsigmaa.net/, click on MENU in the upper-right corner, and select History of Mathematics Events Calendar. Listings may be sent to historyofmathcalendar@gmail.com for addition to the Calendar.

1 2025–2026 History of Mathematics Events

If you would like us to list your event contact one of the HoM SIGMAA officers or send an email to: **historyofmathcalendar@gmail.com**[1]

Entries are tagged as follows:

- This event will be online only.
- This event has been cancelled.
- This event is hybrid (in-person and online).
- A recording has been made available.

January 8–11, 2025 — *Joint Mathematics Meetings, Seattle, Washington*[2]

The program includes the following sessions relevant to the history of mathematics and its use in teaching:

- AMS Special Session on History of Mathematics, organized by Victor J. Katz, Deborah Kent, Elizabeth Hunter, and Sloan Evans Despeaux.
- POM SIGMAA Guest Lecture by Dr. Rajesh Kasturiragan, organized by Steven M. Deckelman and Bonnie Gold.
- JMM Panel on The 1988–91 AMS "Computers and Mathematics" Initiative to Promote and Support the Use of Computers in Research & Education— And What Followed, organized by Keith J. Devlin
- NAM Special Session on the Legacy of Elbert Frank Cox: First African American PhD in Mathematics, organized by Asamoah Nkwanta and Edray Herber Goins.

January 16, 2025 — **Oliver Heaviside: An Electrical Genius of the Victorian Age**[3] , Camden History Society

This event will be online only.

Hugh Griffiths will explore the life, unusual character, and contributions to electrical engineering of the self–taught Heaviside (1850–1925). It marks 100 years since his death.

January 16, 2025 — Forum of the History of the Mathematical Sciences Virtual Group, History of Science Society

This event will be online only.

The History of Mathematics Events Calendar in its new location on HOM SIGMAA's website.

In anticipation of the eventual movement of our back catalog of articles to T&F, *MAA Convergence* content published between 2004 and 2024 continues to be freely available to a worldwide audience at https://old.maa.org/press/periodicals/convergence. Please use aids for readers such as the Annual Tables of Contents, Classroom Resources Index, and Index to Mathematical Treasures to locate classroom materials for a variety of topics, time periods, and length of implementation. We have recently been informed that these pages will remain live until **Summer 2026**. We also retain editing access to the site, so please contact us at convergence@maa.org if you encounter broken links or other issues with an article; we will almost certainly be able to repair the problem. We encourage you to visit both of our locations and make *MAA Convergence*'s content a regular feature of your mathematics classroom!

Our incredible mathematical journey on History of Mathematics at MathFest 2025!

MAA MathFest in Sacramento, CA, August 6-9, 2025.

The following MathFest sessions, in chronological order, highlighted the history of mathematics:

WORKSHOP
Reacting to the Past: Historical Roleplaying Games in Math Education
Thursday, August 7, 8:00 am - 9:20 am, Meeting Room 4

This workshop introduces participants to Reacting to the Past (RTTP) pedagogy, roleplaying games centered around key social and intellectual conflicts. RTTP is a well-established active learning pedagogy in which students take the floor.

In this session, participants will participate in the own math-centric Reacting game, "Markov v. Nekrasov" and learn how they can implement Reacting games into their own classroom.

Organizers:
Chad Curtis, *Nevada State University*
Sungju Moon, *Nevada State University*

WORKSHOP
Engaging and Inspiring Students in the Mathematics Classroom by Teaching with Primary Source Projects
Thursday, August 7, 9:30 am - 10:50 am, Meeting Room 4

This workshop gives participants hands-on experience with classroom materials based on primary historical sources. Participants will place themselves in the role of students as they work through guided readings and mathematical exercises based on source texts. In addition, participants will learn to implement "Reading Apprenticeship" routines, which can be used to help students improve their ability to read and understand mathematics.

Organizers:
Jennifer Clinkenbeard, *California State University Monterey Bay*
Abe Edwards, *Michigan State University*
Ken Monks, *College of Southern Nevada*
Daniel Otero, *Xavier University*
Adam Parker, *Wittenberg University*
Michael Saclolo, *St. Edwards University*
Janet Heine Barnett, *Colorado State University Pueblo*

Sponsors:
SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics (SIGMAA HOM)
The Euler Society
TRIUMPHS Society (TRansforming Instruction: Understanding Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources)

MAA Earle Raymond Hedrick Lecture Series

Terence Tao, *University of California, Los Angeles*

Lecture I: Machine Assisted Proofs
Thursday, August 7, 11:00 am - 11:50 am, Ballroom A1-6

For centuries, mathematicians have relied on computers to perform calculations, to suggest conjectures, and as components of mathematical proofs. In the light of more modern tools such as interactive theorem provers,

machine learning algorithms, and generative AI, we are beginning to see machines used in more creative and substantive ways in our work. In this talk we survey some historical and recent developments, and speculate on the future roles of machine assistance in mathematics.

MAA Invited Paper Session

The Institute on the History of Mathematics and its Use in Teaching: 30 Years of Impact on Education and Research
Thursday, August 7, 2:00 pm - 5:50 pm, Ballroom B2

IHMT offered unprecedented training in history to mathematicians in the late 1990s. This session celebrates the achievements of those fellows in history of mathematics research, mathematics education research, the use of history of mathematics in teaching mathematics, and public history of mathematics. Speakers will note IHMT's influence on their careers and discuss their own scholarship.

Organizers:
Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, *MAA Convergence*
Daniel Otero, *Xavier University*

Sponsors:
MAA Convergence
SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics (SIGMAA HOM)
TRIUMPHS Society; Euler Society
Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics
HPM-Americas **SIGMAA Activity**

SIGMAA on the Philosophy of Mathematics (SIGMAA POM) Guest Lecture, Reception and Business Meeting
Thursday, August 7, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Ballroom A7-8

After a reception and brief business meeting, Jared Warren, Philosophy Department, Stanford University, will discuss "Conventionalism and Mathematical Truth".

Organizers:
Bonnie Gold, *Monmouth University*
Thomas Drucker, *University of Wisconsin Whitewater*

MAA Invited Paper Session

Philosophy of Mathematics: The View from Paradox
Friday, August 8, 8:00 am - 10:55 am, Ballroom B2

Proposals are invited especially on the theme of paradox in mathematics, and how paradox has influenced the philosophy of mathematics, mathematics itself, and logic over the millennia. However, all talks on the Philosophy of Mathematics will be considered.

Organizers:
Steven Deckelman, *University of Wisconsin-Stout*
Bonnie Gold, *Monmouth University Retired*
Thomas Drucker, *University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Retired*

Sponsor: SIGMAA on the Philosophy of Mathematics (SIGMAA POM)

Session Schedule

Mathematical Paradoxes and the Evolution of Philosophical Commitments
8:00 am – 8:40 am
Martin Flashman, *Cal Poly Humboldt*

Discussion
8:40 am – 8:55 am

Algorithms and Neoplatonism in an Old Norse Algorismus
9:00 am – 9:15 am
Daniel Sloughter, *Furman University*

Discussion
9:15 am – 9:25 am

The Paradoxical Philosophy of American Mathematics Education, 1790–1840
9:30 am – 9:45 am
Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, *MAA Convergence*

An Ample Budget of Paradoxes
10:00 am – 10:15 am
Paul Zorn, *St. Olaf College*

Discussion
10:15 am – 10:25 am

Truth Standing On Its Head
10:30 am – 10:45 am
Thomas Drucker, *University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (emeritus)*

Discussion
10:45 am – 10:55 am

Special Session

Looking at Complex Analysis and Geometry through the Lenses of Research, History, and Pedagogy
Friday, August 8, 8:00 am - 11:35 am, Ballroom B3

Complex Analysis and Geometry offer many elegant results and beautiful visual images. In this session, speakers will discuss such results and images. Talks are open to theoretical and applied research results including those done by undergraduate students, historical research and episodes that can be woven into the curriculum, and pedagogical research and approaches to the teaching of Complex Analysis and Geometry.

Organizers:
Russell Howell, *Westmont College*
Michael Dorff, *Brigham Young University*
Beth Schaubroeck, *United States Air Force Academy*
Mike Brilleslyper, *Florida Polytechnic University*

Session Schedule

Exploring Excess Image Area Growth: From Holomorphic Functions to Toeplitz Operators
8:00 am – 8:15 am
Mehmet Celik, *East Texas A&M University*

Student Guided Reinvention of the Hyperbolic Geometry of the Upper Half Plane
8:20 am – 8:35 am
Robert Sachs, *George Mason University*

How Complex Analysis Concepts Move
8:40 am – 8:55 am
Tensia Soto, *Colorado State University*

Riddles and Paradoxes in the Complex Wonderland
9:00 am – 9:15 am
Simon Tse, *Trinity Western University*

A Course with Complex Numbers for Future H.S. Teachers
9:20 am – 9:35 am
Ed Keppelmann, *University of Nevada Reno*

Geometry and Analytical properties of Segre-Degenerate Levi-flat Hypervarieties
9:40 am – 9:55 am
Luka Mernik, *Florida Polytechnic University*

A Modern Approach to an Ancient Quantity
10:00 am – 10:15 am
Michael Pilla, *Florida Polytechic University*

Orders of Critical Points and Poles for Iterates of a Family of Complex Functions
10:20 am – 10:35 am
Beth Schaubroeck, *United States Air Force Academy*

Zeros of Complex-Valued Harmonic Polynomials
10:40 am – 10:55 am
Michael Dorff, *Brigham Young University*

A Probabilistic Query in Complex Analysis (and a Website for REU Projects)
11:00 am – 11:15 am
Russell Howell, *Westmont College*

Following van der Pauw: Conformal Mapping Applications in Electrostatics
11:20 am – 11:35 am
Mike Bolt, *Calvin University*

Special Session

Breaking Barriers: Honoring the Legacy of Elbert Frank Cox, the First African American PhD in Mathematics
Friday, August 8, 2:00 pm - 6:25 pm, Ballroom B2

Short Description: Join the National Association of Mathematicians in celebrating the centennial anniversary of Dr. Elbert Frank Cox (1895–1969), the first African American to earn a PhD in Mathematics. This session will explore his legacy, the impact on African American representation in mathematics. It concludes with a panel on "100 Years of Blacks in Mathematics."

Organizers:
Torina Lewis, *National Association of Mathematicians*
Asamoah Nkwanta, *Morgan State University*
Edray Goins, *Pomona College*
Ami Radunskaya, *Pomona College*

Sponsor: National Association of Mathematicians (NAM)

Session Schedule

Elbert Frank Cox, A Visionary Pioneer Who Acknowledged No Limits, And His Iconic Achievement In 1925 (One Century Ago)
2:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Johnny Houston, *Elizabeth City State University*

How Elbert Frank Cox Rewrote Equations of Possibility
2:35 pm – 3:00 pm
Talitha Washington, *Howard University*

Growing MADDER: Building the "Mathematicians of the African Diaspora Database's Ensemble of Researchers"
3:05 pm – 3:30 pm
Edray Goins, *Pomona College*

Equity Is Not Optional: Reclaiming Black Mathematical Brilliance for the Next 100 Years
3:35 pm – 4:00 pm
Pamela Seda, *Benjamin Banneker Association, Inc.*

Identity, Mentorship, and Mathematical Belonging: Carrying Forward the Legacy of Elbert Frank Cox
4:05 pm – 4:30 pm
Emille Davie Lawrence, *University of San Francisco*

We Were There at the Beginning: Blacks in Topology in the 20th Century
4:35 pm – 5:00 pm
Robin Wilson, *Loyola Marymount University*
Terika Harris, *Columbia University*

Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A
5:05 pm – 6:25 pm

- **Audience Q&A**
  6:05 pm – 6:25 pm

History of Mathematics Trivia Contest

Friday, August 8, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Meeting Room 9-10

Come join fellow math enthusiasts for a fun time of team trivia, and win prizes! Questions will focus on the history of mathematics, and mathematical connections to the Golden State. Undergraduates are especially encouraged to attend, but the contest is open to everyone!

Organizers:
Ximena Catepillán, *Millersville University of Pennsylvania*
Abe Edwards, *Michigan State University*
Greg Coxson, *United States Naval Academy*

Sponsors:
Committee on Undergraduate Student Programming (CUSP)
SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics (SIGMAA HOM)

Special Session

Notable Events in the Histories of the 29 Sections of the MAA
Friday, August 8, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Meeting Room 11

Based on the success of Indiana's special session at Mathfest 2024, this session is an opportunity for individuals from other sections to share historical events, significant individuals, and key programming that contributed to their section's development. Talks are expected to be grounded in the historical documentation while telling compelling stories for a broad audience.

Organizers:
Grace Cook, *Bloomfield College of Montclair State University*
Rick Gillman, *Valparaiso University*

Sponsors:
SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics (SIGMAA HOM)
The Briscoe Center for American History

Session Schedule

Origins of the Indiana Section's Teaching and Service Awards
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm
Rick Gillman, *Valparaiso University*

Writing the History of the Kansas Section of the MAA
4:20 pm – 4:35 pm
Tim Flood, *Pittsburg State University*

The Rise and Fall of the MAA-Wisconsin High School Math Contest
4:40 pm – 4:55 pm
Ben Collins, *Epic Systems and University of Wisconsin-Platteville (emeritus)*

The Mathematical Legacy of Nathan Altshiller Court
5:00 pm – 5:15 pm
Kristin Karber, *University of Central Oklahoma*

A Historian's Plea
5:20 pm – 6:00 pm
James T. Smith, *San Francisco State University*

SIGMAA Activity

SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics (SIGMAA HOM) Business Meeting and Guest Lecture
Friday, August 8, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Meeting Room 11

After a light reception and brief business meeting, Victor Katz, University of the District of Columbia, Emeritus, will give a presentation.

Workshop

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: A Historical Approach to Fostering Mathematical Breakthroughs
Saturday, August 9, 9:30 am - 10:50 am, Meeting Room 4

Experience an innovative instructional approach that fosters mathematical creativity through historical breakthroughs from Algebra to Calculus classes. This workshop will use Torricelli's Trumpet as a case study, placing participants in the role of students. Participants will engage in problem definition, scaffolded discovery, and a deep understanding and appreciation of the origins of modern mathematics.

Organizers:
Cem Inaltong, *Aeon Learning Sciences*
Austin Volz, *Aeon Learning Sciences*

Read the Masters!: Weierstrass Formalizes the Limit Concept

Saturday, August 9, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm, Meeting Room 9-10
Participants will engage in a common reading and discussion of selections (in English translation) from the 1861 lecture notes of Karl Weierstrass (1815--1897), who formalized the concept of limit with his representation in terms of "ϵ-δ" inequalities.

Organizer:
Daniel Otero, *Xavier University*

Sponsors:
SIGMAA on the History of Mathematics (SIGMAA HOM)
MAA Convergence
The TRIUMPHS Society
ORESME Reading Group

The History of Mathematics
Special Interest Group of the
Mathematical Association of America

Al-Khwarizmi Student Paper Contest in the History of Mathematics during the Islamic Civilization, "8ᵗʰ-16ᵗʰ Century"

This contest is open to all undergraduate students in the USA

The purpose of this contest is to increase awareness and interest in the history of mathematics among undergraduates, and to encourage students to learn more about the contributions of the Islamic Civilization to mathematics.

First and second places winners will be chosen.

Winners will receive a one-year student membership in the MAA and HOM/SIGMAA, and a history of mathematics book.

Eligible Topics and Submission Guidelines

- Contributions of a scholar from the Islamic World to mathematics or geometry during such period.
- Any topic in geometry or mathematics from this period by scholars in the Islamic World.
- Contributions of multiple Islamic/Arabic scholars to a given subject/topic in mathematics in this period.
- Connections of Islamic/Arabic Mathematics and the Arts.
- Connections of Islamic/Arabic Mathematics and Architecture.
- Influence of Islamic/Arabic Mathematics on other civilizations.

- Submissions should be at a minimum 2500 words (approximately 10 double spaced 12 pt. pages) in length.
- Submissions should be in a single PDF file, including a cover page with title, name, school, and full contact information.
- Papers should include a full citation list.
- Papers should not draw too heavily from web sources [π]
- Submissions should include a cover sheet with your name, the paper's title, your institution, supervising instructor if applicable, and email and permanent postal address.
- Please submit electronic copy to the email addresses below
- Students submitting a paper need not be currently taking a history of mathematics course.
- Only single-authored papers are eligible.

Deadline for submission is November 17, 2025

Papers will be judged by a panel of specialists for content, originality, and presentation.

Results will be announced via email
and on the HOM SIGMAA website in December.

Submissions and questions can be directed to

Dr. AbdelNaser Al-Hasan
via email at: naser.alhasan@newberry.edu
OR
Dr. Noah Aydin
via email at: aydinn@kenyon.edu

Information can also be found at the HOM-SIGMAA website at
www.homsigmaa.net

[π] Web sources that give access to print material, such as JTSOR, are completely acceptable.

HOM SIGMAA Small Grants

Guidelines and Procedures

Purpose: The HOM SIGMAA wants to aid its members in their quest to bring the joys of the history or mathematics to their students. These small monetary grants will allow HOM SIGMAA members to purchase items that will aid in learning the history of mathematics. For example, a classroom set of abacus or materials to make an historical model.

Guidelines

1. Recipients must be a current member of the HOM SIGMAA
2. The idea is to purchase items, materials to make a historical model, or materials that can be used year after year. (Not supplies that will be used up quickly.)
3. These materials may be used by an individual's colleagues, but belong to the HOM SIGMAA member and not their department.
4. Items or materials must clearly be for the instruction of a historical topic.
5. Grants will be for amounts up to $100 and considered on a rolling basis (so apply early in the year.)
6. Approval of the grant is at the sole discretion of the HOM SIGMAA executive board.
7. Applications can be made at any time, but may take several weeks to be approved and paid out by the MAA. So plan ahead.
8. Receipts for purchased items is preferable. But if purchase depends on funding, receipts may be required after purchase.
9. Total annual grants dispersed will not exceed $1000 per year and are subject to HOM SIGMAA funding needs.
10. Preference will always be given to first-time grantees. And the HOM SIGMAA has the right to deny any request if they feel a single member is requesting too often.

How to apply

Please send the application form (available on the HOM SIGMAA website) in Word or PDF to the Chair of the HOM SIGMAA via email.

HOM SIGMAA Classroom Small Grant

Name

Institution

Email

Phone

Address

Funds requested

Item(s) to be purchased

Purpose or use of items

HOM SIGMAA Student Travel Grants

Guidelines and Procedures

Purpose: The HOM SIGMAA wants to support students of the history of mathematics. We will offer travel grants (in the form of travel expense reimbursements) for students traveling to conferences to give a paper or poster on the history of mathematics. Grants are up to $250 for a local/regional/sectional meeting, and $350 for a national/international meeting. We encourage students to attend MAA meetings, but grants are not limited to MAA meetings. Submit application materials prior to the meeting; submit registration/travel/lodging receipts and verification of talk after the meeting.

Guidelines

1. Travel must be completed while a student or the summer immediately following graduation.
2. Approval of the grant is at the sole discretion of the HOM SIGMAA executive board.
3. Applications can be made at any time, but may take several weeks to be approved and are paid out by the MAA after travel is completed. So plan ahead.
4. Total annual grants dispersed will not exceed $1500 per year and are subject to HOM SIGMAA funding needs and will be considered on a rolling basis.
5. Preference will always be given to first-time grantees.

How to apply (prior to meeting):

1. Please send the application form (available on the HOM SIGMAA website) in Word or PDF to the Chair or Secretary of the HOM SIGMAA via email.
2. Have your research advisor email the Chair or Secretary of the HOM SIGMAA a letter verifying your status and stating the nature of your research.

Reimbursement (post meeting):

Email scans of the following to the HOM SIGMAA:
1. travel receipts totaling the grant amount or more
2. program page verifying your participation.

HOM SIGMAA Student Travel Grant Application

Full Name:

Status: (circle one)   Graduate student   Undergraduate student

Home Institution:

Email:

Address:

Conference title and session title:

Location and dates:

Title of talk/poster: