

THE SEAWAY CURRENT

Newsletter of the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America

SPRING 2026
VOL. 49, No. 2

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THE SEAWAY CURRENT

The Seaway Current is published at least twice per year by the **Seaway Section** of the **Mathematical Association of America** (MAA) for the benefit of its members. Its pages are open to all members of the MAA and, by invitation to others, for the exchange of information and opinion. Contributed announcements, articles, and editorials are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Material may be submitted to the editor by e-mail. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor or of individual contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of the MAA or of the Seaway Section.

Editor

Elizabeth Wilcox, Assoc. Professor
Department of Computer Science
Oswego State University of NY
tel. 315-312-6586
elizabeth.wilcox@oswego.edu

On the web: maaseaway.org

Facebook: [@MAASeaway](https://www.facebook.com/MAASeaway)

SEAWAY SECTION SPRING MEETING

St. John Fisher University

April 17-18, 2026

Register now!

We can't say "thank you" enough to the folks in
the St. John Fisher University
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
for hosting us this month!

SPRING 2026: THE INVITED SPEAKERS

Friday Banquet Speaker:

**The strange case of unique factorization:
Pursuing the prime suspect and its ideal alibi**

Susan Loepf (Williams College)



Abstract: In most familiar settings, we take unique factorization for granted. Indeed, the Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic guarantees that any integer can be uniquely factored into a product of prime numbers. Similarly, any given polynomial factors uniquely into a product of irreducible polynomials. In many algebraic settings, however, unique factorization is the exception, not the rule. For commutative algebraists, the case where unique factorization does hold is very special. In this talk, we focus precisely on this special case. We will begin by generalizing the concept of a prime number to sets called prime ideals. We then state results demonstrating that,

even within the highly desirable setting of unique factorization, prime ideals can behave with an arbitrary strangeness that is shockingly counterintuitive. Rather than delving into technical details, our emphasis will be on the historical narrative of the problem and how incremental progress ultimately led to a resolution. Crucially, the journey includes instrumental intermediate results proved by undergraduates. The central result of this talk is joint work with Cory Colbert, Associate Professor of Mathematics at Washington and Lee University.

SPRING 2026: SATURDAY INVITED SPEAKERS



Scaling Up: Using 3D Models in a Large Multivariable Calculus Course Kelly Delp (Cornell University)

Abstract: Manipulative Calculus is a curriculum developed by Janet Chen and Stepan Paul that uses digitally fabricated 3D models to help students make geometric sense of the concepts in Multivariable Calculus. In this talk, I will discuss some of the lessons from Manipulative Calculus and my project of creating models and adapting the activities to Cornell’s Math 1920 Multivariable Calculus for Engineers.

Mathematics as a Human Science

Gehman Lecture
Chantal Buteau (Brock University)

Abstract: Have you recently asked yourself, What is “mathematics”? Despite centuries of practice, we mathematicians still do not agree on how to define it. In mathematics education, some scholars have challenged traditional views by framing mathematics “as a verb.” In this presentation, I argue for the usefulness of this perspective in undergraduate mathematics teaching. I develop this argument through examples from a sequence of three project-based undergraduate mathematics courses at my institution, in which students use computer programming as a tool for both pure and applied mathematical inquiry. I highlight several principles, supported by both the mathematics education literature and findings from my educational research. I suggest that conceiving mathematics as something we (students) do, rather than something we (students) merely study, may be a crucial step forward for undergraduate mathematics education in the GenAI era.



Math4Fun – My story of working with Math Teachers’ Circles

Judith Covington (Northwestern State University of Louisiana)

Abstract: I firmly believe that K–12 teachers are central to our collective future, yet as a society we often fail to provide them with the support and encouragement they deserve. Throughout my career, I have been deeply committed to teaching mathematics and working alongside K–12 mathematics educators. In 2009, I learned about Math Teachers’ Circles and immediately recognized their potential to meaningfully support and inspire local teachers. This led me to found the North Louisiana Math Teachers’ Circle in 2010, which I directed until a subsequent career transition. In this talk, I will describe what Math Teachers’ Circles are and explain why I felt such a strong imperative to create one. In 2024, I was finally able to establish a Math Teachers’ Circle at Northwestern State University. I will discuss both the challenges and the successes encountered along the way and share practical advice for those interested in starting a Math Teachers’ Circle in their own communities. And, of course, there will be mathematics problems for us to explore together as well.



Looking for times and locations for the workshop and invited lectures?

Check out the [online meeting program](#) for all of the up-to-date details and information!

SPRING 2026: THE INVITED SPEAKER BIOS

CHANTAL BUTEAU is a Professor of Mathematics at Brock University (Canada). She joined Brock in 2004 after completing her Ph.D. in mathematics and computation in music at the University of Zurich, followed by a one-year postdoctoral teaching position at ETH Zurich. Over the years, Chantal's research interests have shifted toward mathematics education, with a primary focus on the integration of digital technology in (university-level) mathematics learning, including computer programming and computer algebra systems (CAS). She recently led a collaborative research project (SSHRC IG, 2017–2023) examining university teaching and learning that uses programming as a tool for mathematical exploration, simulation, and applications. She has also participated in a range of collaborative projects and initiatives focused on computational thinking in broader K–16 mathematics education. At the last two 2021 and 2024 International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME), Chantal was invited to co-chair the Topic Study Group on the teaching and learning of computational thinking in mathematics education. Over the years, she has also co-led numerous working groups at annual meetings of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group (CMESG), including last year's group, "How can/does/should mathematics education research inform teaching at the post-secondary level?". Chantal is the recipient of the 2023 Brock Distinguished Teaching Award.

JUDITH COVINGTON earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, followed by a master's degree in Algebra and a PhD in Topology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. During her graduate studies, she began her longstanding commitment to the preparation of future mathematics teachers. She spent 25 years at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, where she primarily taught courses for prospective teachers and led professional development workshops for in-service teachers. In 2010, Judith founded the North Louisiana Math Teachers' Circle and successfully led the program for eight years before returning to Northwestern State University in 2018. She also served as a mentor with the American Institute of Mathematics, where she assisted other sites in establishing their own Math Teachers' Circles. Since returning to Northwestern State, she has worked to create a new Math Circle in Natchitoches and, in September 2024, hosted the inaugural meeting of Math4Fun, a Math Teachers' Circle serving educators in North Louisiana. Judith has an extensive history of service with the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). She is an original (1994) Project NExT Red Dot and served on the Project NExT Leadership Team from 1997 to 2014. Her additional service includes terms as an MAA Governor-at-Large for Teacher Education and as Governor/Representative of the Louisiana–Mississippi Section. She has held numerous leadership roles within her home section and is currently serving as Section NExT Coordinator. At the national level, she currently serves as Chair of the MAA Council on Sections.

KELLY DELP is the Stephen H. Weiss Provost Teaching Fellow and Senior Lecturer at Cornell University. She earned her PhD from UCSB in 2005 working in the field of Geometric Topology. She also has an interest in visualizing mathematics. In 2015 she was program chair of the Bridges: Math, Art, Architecture and Culture conference, and in 2019 an organizer of the Visualizing Mathematics semester program at ICERM. Since beginning her current position at Cornell, her primary focus has been teaching and developing courses, and training and mentoring graduate TAs and undergraduate tutors.

SUSAN LOEPP is the William Dwight Whitney Professor of Mathematics at Williams College. After earning her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1994 and completing a two-year postdoctoral position at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, she joined the Williams College Department of Mathematics in 1996. Susan's research area is commutative algebra and her recent research interests include constructing Noetherian rings that behave nicely algebraically but have strange prime ideal structures. In addition to working on research with her colleagues, Susan's passions include advising undergraduate research projects in commutative algebra. To date, she has advised the research of 75 undergraduate students resulting in more than 30 papers published in mathematics research journals. Susan is also interested in cryptography and error correction. She coauthored the book *Protecting Information: From Classical Error Correction to Quantum Cryptography* with William Wootters.

SEAWAY SECTION SPRING ELECTIONS

At the Business Meeting on April 18, the Seaway Section will hold an election for the Two-Year College Representative. The Nominations Committee submitted Jesse Clark-Stone (SUNY Canton) as a nominee for the position. Additional nominations will be taken from the floor.

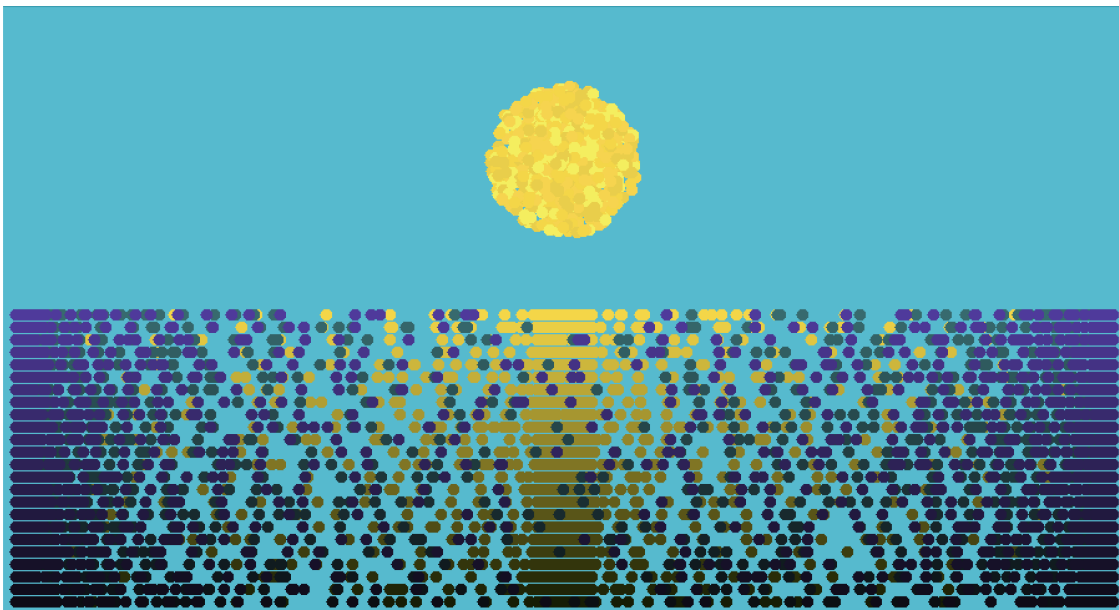
Additionally, at the close of the Spring meeting, Brad Emmons (Utica University) will be concluding his term as Chair, transitioning to Past-Chair, and Elizabeth Wilcox (SUNY Oswego) will be concluding her term as Chair-Elect, transitioning to Chair.

SPRING 2026: SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Seaway NEXT Workshop:** Friday, 4/17 3pm - 3pm
Led by Marie MacDonald (Cornell University) and Zoë Misiewicz (SUNY Oswego)
- **Abstract:** Our teaching workshop will focus on motivating struggling students and teaching in hard times (students in crises and political changes). The session will be mostly discussion based; all levels of teaching experience are welcomed.
- **Game Show!** Friday, 4/17 8:45pm - 10pm
Led by Blair Madore (SUNY Potsdam)
All are welcome. Students are especially encouraged to participate and join the fun!
- **Talking Through Math Anxiety: Dialogue for Future K-12 Math Teachers**
Presented by Courtney Hild (St. John Fisher University) and Pridday Jolliffe-Buyce (St. John Fisher University)
Abstract: This session brings preservice teachers and math education faculty into an open, discussion-based conversation about math anxiety and its impact on teaching. Through shared experiences and collaborative reflection, participants will consider ways to better understand and support learners who struggle with math-related stress.
NOTE: This session will happen concurrently with the Business Meeting on Saturday.
- **Mathematics Career Panel**
Panelists: Matina Chanthavongsay (L3Harris) and Eddy Tabone (Genesee & Wyoming)
Listen to mathematics professionals (not professors!) talk about their experiences in the “real world.” Ask questions!
NOTE: This session will happen concurrently with the Business Meeting on Saturday.

Matina Chanthavongsay has worked at L3Harris for a little over 5 years as a Systems Engineer. She started in a test position where she validated system requirements on communications products. As of this year in January, she has transitioned into a pre-sales role where she now directly supports customers with all things technical about L3Harris's products. She is a 2020 math graduate of St. John Fisher.

Eddy Tabone is a Business Intelligence Analyst at Genesee & Wyoming, a Rochester-based railroad company that holds and operates over a hundred short line railroads across North America, including the Rochester Southern Railroad. He has worked there since June 2022. He graduated with a statistics degree from St. John Fisher in December 2018. In addition to his day job, he also co-owns First Line Sports Analytics, consulting across multiple sports but most notably working with the Rochester Knighthawks and 8 other teams in the National Lacrosse League.



Created by Elizabeth Wilcox. Used with permission.

SPRING 2026: ARTICLES

In Memoriam: H. Laverne Thomas (1928–2025)

Written by **Angeliki Kazas-Pontisakos** and **Toke Knudsen**
(Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics Department, SUNY Oneonta)



H. Laverne Thomas in the early 2020s. Family photo. Courtesy of Steven Laverne Thomas.

Halsey Laverne “Verne” Thomas, retired professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences (now the Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics Department) at the State University of New York at Oneonta (SUNY Oneonta), passed away on September 1st, 2025, aged 97. He was born in Syracuse, New York, on June 2nd, 1928, and grew up in the Great Smoky Mountains in eastern Tennessee.

Verne attended Syracuse University, where he earned a B.A. in mathematics through the School of Education in 1950 and an M.A. in mathematics and secondary education in 1951 as part of a five-year combined program. Afterwards, in 1951, Verne began teaching at the Franklin Central School in Franklin, New York, where he taught grades 8–12 mathematics and driver’s education.

In 1959, Verne joined the State University College of Education at Oneonta, now known as the State University of New York at Oneonta (SUNY Oneonta). At the time, SUNY Oneonta was a teachers college, primarily for elementary education. He held temporary appointments for three years, after which he got a tenure-track position at the college. At SUNY Oneonta, Verne worked as a mathematics education specialist.

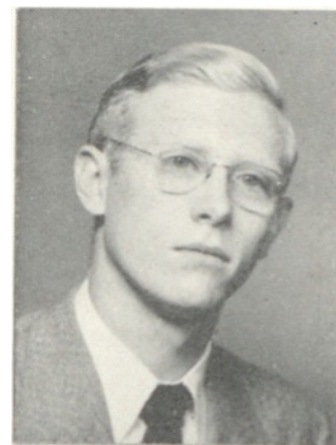
In the summer of 1963, Verne began a Ph.D. in mathematics education at Teachers College, Columbia University. His advisor at Teachers College was Myron F. Roszkopf (1907–73), who was also previously his advisor at Syracuse University. The topic of his thesis was the concept of function. He received his Ph.D. on June 3rd, 1969, and soon afterwards he was promoted to full professor at SUNY Oneonta.

Starting in the early 1960s, the college began to transition from a teachers college to a liberal arts college, which included new programs in secondary education. Verne continued in the role of a mathematics education specialist. In his department, Verne was a member of the mathematics education group. Besides courses in mathematics education, Verne taught everything from elementary mathematics to more advanced courses like Statistics, Calculus, Number Theory, and Linear Algebra — even computer science courses at the end of his career.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Verne was part of the Secondary School Mathematics Curriculum Improvement Study (SSMCIS), a mathematics education program led by Howard F. Fehr (1901–82) of Teachers College, Columbia University, that sought to create a unified treatment of mathematics for secondary schools and eliminate the traditional separate studies of algebra, geometry, etc. The curriculum devised by the SSMCIS, titled *Unified Modern Mathematics*, was published in several installments by Teachers College, Columbia University.

In 1975, Verne received the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. He served as department chair for eight years in the 1980s and as President for the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State (AMTNYS) in 1987–88. He was also involved with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

Verne retired from SUNY Oneonta in 1992. He continued to live in Oneonta, New York, and remained active in the local community, including as a singer with the Catskill Choral Society and as a pianist for the Oneonta Rotary Club.



H. Laverne Thomas in Syracuse University’s 1950 yearbook. Syracuse University Yearbook Collection, University Archives, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries. Used with permission.

REPORTS & MINUTES SINCE FALL 2025

1. TWO-YEAR REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT – SPRING 2026

Jesse Clark-Stone, Two-Year Representative

While I am relatively new to my position as the 2-year rep and feel that it has an under-sized role, given the relatively few 2-year math programs in our area and the lower degree of likelihood that a 2-year student has a poster/oral presentation to give and similarly that faculty at these schools, with often heavier teaching loads and less administrative assistance to travel to conferences, are able to make it, my update would be:

As the Two-Year College Rep, I work to represent the viewpoint of the faculty and students at the Community Colleges and Associate-degree-granting institutions in the Seaway section. As participation amongst this group is generally low, I make suggestions to the Executive Committee to increase this engagement - such as to have the Bachelor-degree-granting (and beyond) institutions help to subsidize the travel and attendance for students from the 2-year schools, seeing it as a recruitment opportunity, as most of those students will be looking to transfer into a four-year degree, or beyond. I am hoping that this could make a big difference in attendance from these schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Clark-Stone (SUNY Canton), Seaway Section Two-Year Representative

2. PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT – SPRING 2026

Adam Giambone, Program Chair

I will have completed my first year as Program Chair for the Seaway Section at the end of our Spring 2026 MAA Seaway Section Meeting, happening 4/17-4/18 at St. John Fisher University in Rochester, NY. Thanks to local organizer Ryan Gantner for collaborating on all the planning behind the scenes and thanks to webmaster Cesar Aguilar for creating a meeting website that's super easy to use on the front end and the back end!

For next academic year, I hope to do a larger marketing push for a student poster session at the fall meeting, perhaps only offering the student poster session annually in the fall going forward since this is a natural time for students to share work from the previous academic year and from summer research programs. At the upcoming spring meeting, we'll continue the idea from this past fall meeting of having one or more student activities that run parallel to the business meeting; specifically, we'll have a student career panel and a student-led discussion for pre-service teachers. Perhaps one or more student sessions related to graduate school, careers in education, careers in BIG (business, industry, and government), etc., can become an annual tradition for the spring meeting, as this is a time when students may be looking for internships, exploring career options, and considering graduate school.

If you have ideas for the Seaway meetings next academic year or would like to discuss what being Program Chair entails, please feel free to email me or find me at the spring meeting!

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Giambone (Elmira College), Seaway Section Program Chair

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – SPRING 2026

Gordon Craig, Seaway Section Treasurer

This report will primarily consist of our year-end statement for 2026, as submitted to MAA National, and a budget for 2026.

The financial statement doesn't include our payment to St. Lawrence for the fall meeting, since it was only cashed in January. That doesn't create much of a distortion for the purposes of year-to-year comparisons, since the payment for the fall 2024 RIT meeting only went through in January of 2025. We ended up with a "real" surplus of about \$500, as the St. Lawrence meeting cost us roughly a thousand dollars less than the Rochester one. Our bank balance just before we started receiving registration fees for the St. John Fisher meeting was \$11,941.70. This is what should be viewed as a baseline for the future.

As usual, the budget is conservative. We've roughly broken even for the majority of our past meetings, and our subvention from the MAA has been covering our other expenses, but the short-term outlook for both the academic sector (which affects us through cutbacks to PD money and funding from the MAA) and the overall economy seem gloomy to me.

And our Square app is up and running, so you can pay for your merch electronically. Please find Elizabeth Wilcox (or whichever of her minions is standing beside the pile of t-shirts) at the next meeting to get your Seaway-branded stuff.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon Craig (York University/Université Laval/Trent University), Seaway Section Treasurer

4. CHAIR'S REPORT – FALL 2025

Brad Emmons, Seaway Section Chair

Welcome to the Fall 2025 meeting at St. Lawrence University. I would like to thank our local hosts for having us here. Thank you, Dan Look, and all of the kind folks at St. Lawrence University.

The forecast for hosting for the next couple of meetings looks like:

SPRING 2026 - Ryan Gantner hosting at St. John Fisher April 17-18
FALL 2026 - Brad Emmons hosting at Utica University, October 23-24
SPRING 2027 - Jeff Johannes working for Geneseo
FALL 2027 - Blair Madore working for Potsdam

Thank you, all, for reaching out to your administrations to see about hosting.

I am happy to acknowledge the work of Daniel Look, Elizabeth Wilcox, and myself on drafting the new guidelines for addressing bias that we had discussed at our most recent meetings. These include:

- (1) Guidelines for our guest speakers
- (2) Guidelines for moderating sessions
- (3) A code of conduct for our meetings

You should have noticed these guidelines on our website, and during the registration process for this meeting. I think they look great! And thank you, Cesar Aguilar, for posting these on the website.

Another thing we should discuss is an initiative from MAA National. They have endowed a teaching award for each section called the Crawford Award. This can be in addition to our Clarence Stevens Distinguished Teaching Award, or it can be in conjunction with it. I've included documents relating to this award in the google drive.

The Council on Sections reached out to us, and we need a representative for the By-Laws committee. Jolie Roat has agreed to do this for us. Thank you, Jolie!

They also reminded us that our bylaws need to be submitted for revisions in 2027-28.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Emmons (Utica University), Seaway Section Chair

5. THE EXECUTIVE & EXTENDED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING – Mrch 28, 2025

Present: Elizabeth Wilcox, Adam Giambrone, Jolie Roat, Jesse Clark-Stone, Keiko Dow, Jane Cushman, Dan Look, Brad Emmons, Jeff Johannes, Gordon Craig, Ryan Gantner, Hossein Shahmohamad

Approval of minutes from Spring 2025 Executive Committee meetings

Minutes approved.

Reports from officers

- (1) Chair (Brad Emmons)
Full report below [*editor: above in the newsletter*].

Began by thanking St. Lawrence University for hosting the meeting. The Spring 2026 meeting will be at St. John Fisher University on April 17-18. The Fall 2026 meeting will be at Utica University in October. There was some discussion of having a reasonable back-up plan in place in the event an institution finds themselves

unable to host a meeting last minute. There are new guidelines available on the website for speakers, session moderators, and attendees, as well as remind participants to report any issues or concerns to members of the executive committee. There will also be something on the registration page for future meetings.

The MAA is now offering a monetary award for the recipients of each section's teaching excellence award, supported by the Crawford Fund. We can give \$500 to award winner and \$100 to nominator.

Proposal: Rename the Clarence Stephens Teaching Award to "Clarence Stephens Teaching Award, supported by the Carol Crawford Teaching Fund". The awardee will receive \$500 and the nominator will receive \$100 to cover registration fees at either the meeting when the winner is announced, or the meeting when the awardee speaks, if it is within the timeframe of the MAA. *-Approved by the Executive Committee. The proposal will be brought to the Section at the business meeting tomorrow.*

(2) Chair-Elect (Elizabeth Wilcox)
No report.

(3) Program Chair (Adam Giambrone)
There are 127 registered participants so far with 9 student talks and 16 contributed talks. This meeting also includes a makerspace open house, curved space pool demonstrations during the parallel sessions, a Seaway NExT discussion, an UNYIBL active learning discussion and a listening session. The committee discussed the timing of the meeting when there is an increase in contributed talks.

(4) Treasurer (Gordon Craig)
Budget and financial statements are reported at the spring meetings. Has been reviewing the costs of meetings over the last few years.

(5) Secretary (Jolie Roat)
Will be representing the Seaway Section on the Committee on Section Bylaws. The MAA requests that each section have a representative serve on this committee in the years leading up to their bylaws review. Will be submitting our recently changed bylaws for review by this committee.

Will be working with Gary Towsley to scan the collection of Section documents into a digital format.

(6) Two-Year College Representative (Jesse Clark-Stone)
There are very few participants from two-year colleges. Perhaps using local schools or admissions to promote the conference could increase participation.

Report from the Section Representative (Hossein Shahmohamad)

The early registration fee for MathFest was \$515 this year. There was some discussion related to the committee structure and purpose of the Section Officer's meeting.

Reports from committees and other Extended Executive Committee positions

(1) Program Committee (Adam Giambrone)

Two talks are lined up for the spring meeting. Judith Covington will be the national visitor.

(2) Student Program Committee (Keiko Dow)

All talks are 20 minutes in length. Graduate students should be included in the contributed talks section. There was discussion related to how more graduate students could be encouraged to attend such as liaisons for universities with graduate programs or fliers for the meetings that are directed towards graduate students. There was also discussion of possibly adjudicating talks (the AMS will donate books that can be given as prizes), or taking pictures of student talks and including them in the Seaway Current.

(3) Randolph Lecture Committee (Dan Look)

Shay Fuchs will be speaking tomorrow. Is currently working on finding a speaker for Utica (Fall 2026).

(4) Gehman Lecture Committee (Shay Fuchs)

Will be reaching out to potential speaker soon.

(5) Educational Policy Committee (Jane Cushman)

There have been no reported issues with the recently added AP Precalculus course. The state will be making Regents exams optional for students, increasing concern about appropriate math placement for students entering college.

- (6) Distinguished Teaching Award Committee (Hossein Shamohamad)
Nominations are due by January 30.
- (7) Nominations Committee (Ryan Gantner)
Expecting just one open position on the executive committee in the spring (Two-Year Representative).
- (8) Seaway NEXT Advisory Committee (Jeff Johannes/Marie MacDonald)
There will be a panel discussion on How to Make Calculus Engaging with Real Data and Cool Examples on Saturday. Marie will be running the panel tomorrow and organizing the workshop in the spring.
- (9) Distinguished Lecturer Committee (David Brown)
No Report- This committee is not active; there are questions related to its financial viability.
- (10) Liaison Coordinator (Jeff Johannes)
Will be working with Jesse to get more liaisons at two-year colleges.
- (11) *Seaway Current* Editor (Elizabeth Wilcox)
The new *Seaway Current* is out.
- (12) Webmaster (Cesar Aguilar)
Report below.
- (13) Public Information Officer (Christine Uhl / Christopher Hill)
Chris Hill has agreed to take this position on.
- (14) Merchandise Master (Elizabeth Wilcox)
Will need some cash on hand to support getting merchandise in advance Clarification on the system for funding up front would be helpful.

Old Business

- (1) Issues of Bias
See Chair's report above.

New Business

- (1) Local Hosts for Spring 2026 and beyond
See Chair's report above.
- (2) Supporting an Additional Night for Guest Speakers with inconvenient travel
A motion to provide \$100 to a speaker for an extra hotel night was passed with one abstention. A more permanent policy to handle situations when a Saturday speaker must stay an extra night will be drafted by the Program Chair, Treasurer, and Chair.
- (3) The Crawford Award
See Chair's report above.
- (4) Council on Sections
See Secretary's report above.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolie Roat (SUNY Cortland)

6. THE BUSINESS MEETING – March 29, 2025

Reports from Officers

- (1) Chair (Brad Emmons)

Venues are set for the next two meetings: Spring 2026 will be at St. John Fisher University on April 17-18. Fall 2026 will be at Utica University on October 23-24. We are always looking for local hosts!

Guidelines for speakers and session moderators, as well as a code of conduct for the section meetings have been created and are available on the website. If you see or experience any issues of bias, please report it to the executive committee.

Jolie (Secretary) will be representing the Seaway Section on the Committee on Section Bylaws. We may need to bring our recent bylaws change back to the Section for approval.

An ad-hoc committee has been formed to evaluate the possibility of additional financial support for invited lecturers traveling a long distance. This committee will be made up of the Chair, Program Chair, and Treasurer.

We are looking to restart the currently defunct Distinguished Lecturer Committee.

(2) Treasurer (Gordon Craig)

Our financial health is currently good. We will be increasing meeting registration fees to keep up with inflation. There was a \$900 profit from the Oneonta meeting. Gordon is currently looking at data from past meetings to try to determine why some meetings cost more than others.

There will be merchandise for sale throughout the day.

(3) Program Chair (Adam Giambrone)

There are 132 registered participants at this meeting. It includes 17 contributed talks, 8 student talks, 12 posters and a student activity that is taking place during the business meeting.

(4) Section Rep (Hossein Shamohamad)

MathFest was in Sacramento this year. It will be in Boston next year.

(5) Two-Year Representative (Jesse Clark-Stone)

The meetings could be beneficial for prospective students from two-year institutions, perhaps including workshops specifically directed at these students. A larger discussion around increasing student engagement was had, including comments related to a decreasing interest in STEM fields, a suggestion of a panel for majors related to mathematics, and how inviting students who are not math majors could be beneficial. A concern was raised regarding funding issues for students to attend, despite registration and lunch fees being waived. A suggestion of outreach or virtual programming was also given.

Reports from Committee Chairs

(1) Program Committee (Adam Giambrone)

No report.

(2) Student Program Committee (Keiko Dow)

No report.

(3) Randolph Lecture Committee (Dan Look)

The Randolph lecture was given Saturday morning. The committee is looking for suggestions for future speakers.

(4) Gehman Lecture Committee (Shay Fuchs)

Will be reaching out to potential speaker for the spring meeting soon.

(5) Educational Policy Committee (Jane Cushman)

NYSED will be changing the diploma requirements for high school graduates. They will be deemphasizing the regents exams.

(6) Distinguished Teaching Award Committee (Hossein Shahmohamad)

Nominations are due by January 30.

(7) Nominations Committee (Ryan Gantner)

(8) The Two-Year College Representative position will be up for election in the spring.

- (9) Seaway NExT Advisory Committee (Jeff Johannes / Marie MacDonald)
There will be a panel discussion on How to Make Calculus Engaging with Real Data and Cool Examples on Saturday afternoon. A workshop will be planned for the spring meeting.
- (10) Distinguished Lecturer Committee (David Brown)
No report- This committee is currently dormant. There is interest in starting it up again.
- (11) Liaison Coordinator (Jeff Johannes)
If you do not know who your liaison is, please let Jeff know.
- (12) Seaway Current Editor (Elizabeth Wilcox)
The new Seaway Current is out. If you have any articles or announcements, please send to Elizabeth.
- (13) Webmaster (Cesar Aguilar)
No report.
- (14) Public Information Officer (Christine Uhl / Christopher Hill)
Chris Hill has agreed to take over this position.
- (15) Merchandise Master (Elizabeth Wilcox)
Merchandise is available for sale today.

Old Business

- (1) None

New Business

- (1) Clarence Stephens Award
Motion for Approval: Rename the Clarence Stephens Teaching Award to “Clarence Stephens Teaching Award, supported by the Carol Crawford Teaching Fund”. The awardee will receive \$500 and the person who nominated the awardee will receive \$100 to go towards registration at the meeting when the winner is announced, or the meeting when the winner speaks (as long as it is within the timeline put forth by the MAA). *Motion approved.*













As a reminder, nominations are due by January 30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolie Roat (SUNY Cortland)

7. Webmaster Report – Fall 2025

With the Fall 2025 meeting at SLU, the maaseaway.org website has been used seven times to host meetings. A total of 127 participants registered online for the Fall 2025 which is a record number for all meetings hosted on maaseaway.org.

Your Seaway Meetings

<p>2025 Fall  View</p>  <p>St. Lawrence University Canton, NY Oct 3 – 4</p> <p>127 Registered</p> <p>Visible</p>	<p>2025 Spring  View</p>  <p>SUNY Oneonta Oneonta, NY Mar 28 – 29</p> <p>120 Registered</p> <p>Visible</p>	<p>2024 Fall  View</p>  <p>Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester, NY Oct 4 – 5</p> <p>109 Registered</p> <p>Visible</p>
<p>2024 Spring  View</p>  <p>SUNY Fredonia Fredonia, NY Apr 19 – 20</p> <p>93 Registered</p> <p>Visible</p>	<p>2023 Fall  View</p>  <p>St. Bonaventure University St. Bonaventure, NY Oct 13 – 14</p> <p>59 Registered</p> <p>Visible</p>	<p>2023 Spring  View</p>  <p>University of Waterloo Waterloo, ON May 5 – 6</p> <p>97 Registered</p> <p>Visible</p>

While the main functionality of the site remains largely unchanged, several new features have been added in the last couple of years along with some bug fixes. These include:

- Bug fix on entree selections when multiple participants register on the same form. [July 2025]
- Speaker and moderator guidelines on abstract submission page and meeting registration page. [June 2025]
- On the back-end of the site, added functionality to create and edit committee memberships; the section chair can now edit committees directly on the site. [April 2025]
- On the back-end of the site, added functionality to create and edit the upload process for newsletters; the newsletter editor can now create and edit newsletters. The link to the latest newsletter appears automatically on the home page. [April 2025]
- On the back-end of the site, added a feature to resend a registration and payment confirmation email to a participant. Useful when participants lose the confirmation email [April 2025]
- On the front-end, worked with Olympia Nicodemi to add a page that archives a set of letters in which Clarence Stephens and Robert Hofer (now Professor of Mathematics Emeritus at SUNY Plattsburgh) discuss teaching principles, ideals, practices, and challenges. Olympia had the letters digitized. [November 2024]
- On the back-end of the site, added the ability for the program chair or the meeting host to edit participant settings and add/edit an abstract for a participant. [April 2024]
- Many other small updates to the back-end and front-end of the site.

Respectfully submitted,
Cesar Aguilar