

News from the Applied Math
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Fall 2022

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The Fall 2022 semester is wrapping up, and the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee would like to share what we have been working on throughout the summer and fall of 2022 and highlight other DEI happenings in the APMA community. We wish everyone a warm and restful winter break!

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The DEI Committee

The full DEI Committee has been meeting monthly since September (meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#)), and four smaller working groups have met separately throughout the semester to focus on specific topics and initiatives.

Our priorities for the 2022-23 academic year include:

- Drafting a revised DDIAP for the Division, which will replace the 2016 DDIAP
- Supporting our graduate and undergraduate programs, including upcoming program reviews
- Understanding and addressing the DEI needs of our undergraduates
- Planning and implementing new DEI programs/events for the department

Our current committee members are Bjorn Sandstede (committee chair), Stuart Geman, Rosanna Wertheimer, Rachel Daigle, Juniper Cocomello, Teressa Chambers, Moyi Tian, Peter Sentz, and Emma McFall. Johnny Guzman joined as a member of the Graduate Working Group.

Our Summer & Fall 2022 Accomplishments

- **Community Meetings:** the DEI Committee hosted two community meetings for faculty and graduate students. Both community meetings were well-attended and generated valuable conversations, connections, and feedback.
 - **August 4** - facilitated by Alycia Mosley Austin and Maija Hallsmith of the Graduate School, we talked about the big picture of graduate education in applied math: what is the goal of our Applied Math program? Why go to graduate school and advise graduate students?
 - **November 15** - led by the Graduate Working Group of the DEI Committee, we talked about common misconceptions and questions about the graduate program, touching on topics like funding, advising, and prelims. Questions

and feedback from the meeting have been synthesized into an [FAQ document](#) for graduate students and graduate student advisors.

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- **Fellowship Workshop** - on September 20, the Division hosted a fellowship information session for first and second year graduate students. Current graduate students, recent graduates, and a postdoc presented about their experiences with a range of fellowships. Resources shared during the workshop are available [here](#).
- **Summer Working Groups** - members of the committee met over the summer to discuss the policy on graduate advisor changes, an APMA professional development seminar, and future plans.
- **Check-in Meetings** - Candy and Rosanna held check-in meetings with a focus on non-academic topics for 36 graduate students. These meetings are scheduled at regular intervals to hear how students are doing, to connect students with resources, and to answer any questions. Individual meetings are confidential, but overall trends are reported to the DEI committee and help inform our work.
- **Annual OIED Review** - we completed the Division's 2021-22 DEI annual review for the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity.
- **Undergraduate Survey** - the Undergraduate Working Group sent a pilot survey to 2 APMA courses polling undergraduates about their experiences with the APMA community.

Looking Ahead

- **Difficult Conversations Workshop** - we plan to host a second Difficult Conversations workshop as a direct follow-up to the workshop held in Spring 2022.
- **Community Meeting** - the DEI committee plans to host another community meeting in the Spring 2023 semester.
- **Lunch Series** - the Division plans to pilot a lunch discussion series in the Spring 2023 semester.
- ...and more to come!

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

APMA Fall 2022 Community Events - Beyond the Committee

Beyond the work of the DEI committee, there were plenty of community-building and DEI-related events taking place in the department this semester:

- **Welcome Back Events** - the Division hosted a Welcome Back social on September 8 and a Welcome Back Ice Cream Social for our undergraduate concentrators on September 23.
- **Tea Time** - APMA Tea Time is back in full swing! The Division has had a great turnout of students, postdocs, faculty, and staff at our weekly Tea Times throughout the semester.
- **SEAM Seminar** - the Division held a Social Equity and Applied Math (SEAM) seminar on November 9. The speaker, Professor Bruce M. Boghosian of Tufts University, presented on the examination of inequality, oligarchy, and wealth distribution through asset-exchange models. A recording of the talk and more details on the SEAM seminar can be found [here](#).
- **Math Movie Night** - on December 8, the Division held a screening of *The Navajo Math Circles*, a documentary film exploring mathematics education for Navajo students.
- **Postdoc Lunch** - Professor Kavita Ramanan organized a lunch gathering for APMA postdocs on November 1 to bring together the postdoc community and talk about available resources.
- **Graduate Recruiting** - the Division hosted a virtual recruiting event for prospective graduate students on November 5th.
- **Holiday Events** - the Division hosted two community holiday events in December: the APMA holiday party on December 12 and the APMA undergraduate holiday party on December 13.

As always, we welcome your comments, suggestions, and feedback via our [comment box](#).

[COMMENT BOX](#)