

News from the Applied Math
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Fall 2023

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The Fall 2023 semester is wrapping up, and the APMA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee would like to share what we have been working on throughout the Fall and highlight other DEI and community happenings in the Division.

Our current committee members are Kavita Ramanan (committee chair), Teresa Chambers, Stuart Geman, Sicheng Liu, Shivani Mendiratta, Peter Sentz, and Rosanna Wertheimer.

We wish everyone a warm and restful winter break!

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Our Fall 2023 Accomplishments

Events & Meetings

- **Community Social** - the DEI Committee hosted a community social on November 9, where faculty, staff, students, and postdocs came together over icebreaker bingo and a team-building challenge. We also briefly introduced the revised DDIAP (see below for more details).
 - **If you have any feedback on this semester's community social or suggestions for future community meetings, please reach out to Rachel Daigle or Rosanna Wertheimer!**
- **Open Office Hours** - members of the DEI Undergraduate subcommittee piloted a series of regular biweekly office hours open to undergraduates with questions about APMA courses and concentrations.
- **External Fellowship Info Session** - Rosanna Wertheimer led an informational session on external fellowship processes for 1st and 2nd-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](#).
- **Syllabus Working Group** - a group of APMA faculty, postdocs, and grad students met regularly through the fall semester to work on a syllabus for an undergraduate gateway course that would lower entry barriers for prospective APMA concentrators. Their work will continue in the spring semester.
- **Graduate Student Check-in Meetings** - Candy and Rosanna continued to hold check-in meetings with a focus on non-academic topics for APMA graduate students - over the course of each year, they meet with every graduate student in

the program at least once to hear more about how students are doing, answer questions, and provide resources. Individual meetings are private, but overall trends are reported to the APMA leadership and the DEI committee to help inform our work.

Communications & Updates

- **Revised DDIAP** - the DEI Committee shared with the APMA community a new version of the Departmental Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (DDIAP). This document is a revision of our 2016 DDIAP that identifies departmental DEI priorities for the medium-term future and aligns our aims with the University's diversity & inclusion goals. After incorporating feedback from the community, we will forward the revised DDIAP to the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity.
- **Graduate Handbook Updates** - the Graduate Subcommittee of the DEI Committee, along with department leadership, made substantial edits to the structure and content of the APMA Graduate Handbook in order to provide more clarity, transparency, and resources for students. Major changes include more details and new topics for the prelim section, new sections on graduate advising and RA appointments, more info on the thesis advisor process, and other updated descriptions and resources throughout the document. The updated handbook can be viewed on the [Graduate page](#) of the APMA website.
- **Highlighting HUGs in Mathematics** - the DEI Committee sent two email posts to the APMA community about trailblazing indigenous mathematicians who have opened doors and fostered connections for others from historically underrepresented groups in the fields of mathematics and applied mathematics.

Looking Ahead

- **Spring 2024 Events** - in the Spring 2024 semester, the DEI Committee and its subcommittees plan to host a community meeting for faculty and graduate students, a DEI-related workshop, a prelim prep discussion, a lightning talk session for graduate students, and more. Watch for emails from the DEI Committee with more details!
 - **APMA Connect** - the DEI undergraduate subcommittee will be piloting a series of peer check-ins with a sample of our senior concentrators, to learn more about the APMA concentrator experience. More details to come soon!
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APMA Fall 2023 Community Events - Beyond the Committee

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

- **Welcome Back Events** - The Division hosted a Welcome Back Celebration on September 14 and a Welcome Back Ice Cream Social for our undergraduate concentrators on September 22.
- **Tea Time** - The Division has had a great turnout of students, postdocs, faculty, and staff at our weekly Tea Times throughout the semester. Undergraduate concentrators were invited to all Tea Times this semester.
- **APMA Holiday Party** - The Division hosted a Holiday Party for the APMA community on December 8. This year, the holiday celebrations for the Division and the undergraduate concentrators were combined to bring everyone together and promote a more connected APMA community.
- **SEAM Seminar** - On December 11, the Division hosted Sara M. Clifton of Kenyon College for a virtual Social Equity and Applied Mathematics (SEAM) seminar about modeling the leaky pipeline in hierarchical professions.
- **Postdoc Events** - Professor Kavita Ramanan organized two postdoc events - a welcome back dinner on September 20 and a multi-department postdoc social on November 1 - to build postdoc community and create more opportunities for postdoc networking and connections.
- **Student Group Events** - APMA student groups held student community events throughout the semester, including regular graduate seminars, a career panel, a screening of the movie *Coded Bias*, and a joint trivia night.

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We encourage you to get involved, submit comments, stay up-to-date with the DEI Committee's work through the following ways:

- Read our meeting [minutes](#)
- Submit comments, suggestions, or concerns in our [comment box](#)
- Join the DEI committee or a subcommittee
- Attend events!

[LEARN MORE ON THE APMA WEBSITE](#)