

News from the Applied Math
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Spring 2023

As the Spring 2023 semester comes to a close, the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee would like to share what we have been working on throughout the semester and highlight other DEI-related happenings in the APMA community.

The DEI Committee has had a busy year - we've met monthly since September (our meeting minutes can be viewed [here](#)) and our four working groups have met separately throughout the year to focus on specific topics, events, and initiatives that support the APMA community. We extend our sincere gratitude to this year's committee members, whose efforts have greatly enriched the work of the DEI Committee and the Division as a whole. We look forward to continuing to advance departmental diversity, equity, and inclusion in the next academic year!

We will have openings on the DEI committee for next year - if you are interested in discussing and working on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in the department, please contact [Rachel Daigle](#) or [Rosanna Wertheimer](#)!

We hope that everyone has a wonderful and restorative summer!

Our Spring 2023 Accomplishments

Events & Meetings

- **Community Meetings:** the DEI Committee hosted two community meetings during this semester:
 - **March 7** - led by the Graduate Working Group of the DEI Committee, faculty and graduate students discussed how the Division and the University can better prepare, inform, and respond to graduate students in the program. Notes and takeaways from the meeting were shared by email on March 21.
 - **April 18** - attendees at this community meeting talked about the goals and activities of the DEI Committee from this academic year and discussed how to continue building community in the department. The conversations focused on why it is important to have a community in APMA, what kinds of information would be helpful to update and share with the community, and how to integrate our undergraduates into the department's activities.
 - **If you have any feedback on this semester's community meetings or suggestions for future meetings, please reach out to Rachel Daigle or Rosanna Wertheimer!**

- **Topical Conversations Series** - we piloted a series of regular informal discussions around the topic of teaching: general tips and tricks, teaching introductory vs. advanced courses, handling assessments and grading, and more.
- **Prelim Prep Discussion** - on April 13, the Graduate Working Group hosted a gathering for graduate students and faculty to talk about the prelim exams: what first and second-year students should expect, common questions and misconceptions, the experiences of those who have taken the prelims already, and tips from faculty who have given the exams before.
- **Difficult Conversations Workshop** - on April 25, the Division hosted a second Difficult Conversations workshop with Julie Weber, the University Ombuds, that was open to the entire APMA community. We discussed why it is important to have difficult conversations in the department and learned about different techniques for having difficult conversations, including active listening and how to constructively frame concerns and questions.
- **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 the full academic year, they met 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 confidential, but overall trends are reported to the DEI committee and help inform our work.

Communications & Updates

- **Thesis Advisor Change Policy** - the Graduate Working Group drafted a written policy for instances when graduate students need to change their thesis advisor, and the policy was approved by the Chair and Director of Graduate Studies. A link to this policy is posted on the [APMA website](#) and will be referenced in an updated version of the Graduate Handbook.
- **Website Revision** - the 'DEI in APMA' tab on the APMA website has been changed to '[Community](#)', a more streamlined version of the page that encompasses the department's DEI efforts and provides broader community resources.
- **Pulse Survey** - the DEI Committee sent a brief pulse survey to the full APMA community to learn about pressing thoughts and issues on the community's mind and better inform the Committee's work. Overall results were discussed by the DEI Committee.
- **Undergraduate Survey** - following up on the pilot survey sent last semester, the Undergraduate Working Group sent a survey to all undergraduates students taking APMA courses this semester, polling undergraduates more broadly about their experiences with APMA concentrations and with our community.
- **HUG Trailblazers in Mathematics** - the DEI Committee sent two email posts to the APMA community about trailblazing mathematicians from historically underrepresented groups who have opened doors and fostered connections for other HUGs in the fields of mathematics and applied mathematics.

Looking Ahead

- **Summer and Fall 2023**- the DEI Committee will use the summer to plan for future activities. Watch your inbox for news about upcoming activities and events in the next academic year!

APMA Spring 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:

- **Upcoming Annual Celebration of Mathematics** - Professor Kavita Ramanan has led the organization of a series of upcoming events for the Annual Celebration of Mathematics. Additional details can be found [here](#).
 - **SEAM Seminar on May 5 @ 12pm** - a virtual Social Equity and Applied Math (SEAM) seminar with Dr. Jo Boaler of Stanford University, who will present on how to teach mathematics to students in a way that increases equity, engagement, and achievement for all. More details on the SEAM seminar can be found [here](#).
 - **Math Film Screening on May 5 @ 5pm** - screening of a 30-minute film by Ekaterina Eremenko on [Olga Ladyzhenskaya](#), which will be followed by student presentations and discussion about Ladyzhenskaya's mathematics.
 - **Public Lecture at ICERM on May 8 @ 5:30pm** - Dr. Nancy Kopell of Boston University will present on how brain rhythms connect physiology and cognition. This event is co-sponsored by Applied Math, CCBS, and ICERM.
- **EDGE Summer Program** - APMA has been preparing to host the Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Summer Program in June 2023. The program aims to strengthen the ability of women and minority students to successfully complete graduate programs in the mathematical sciences.
- **Postdoc Lunch** - Professor Kavita Ramanan organized another lunch gathering for APMA postdocs on March 23 to talk about the postdoc community here in APMA.
- **Super Monday** - the department hosted lunch and informal discussions for 5 prospective graduate students for Brown University's Super Monday, a one-day campus visit for newly admitted students from historically underrepresented groups. This year APMA Visiting Day was scheduled for the Tuesday after Super Monday to make it easier for more students to visit us.
- **Student Events** - APMA students groups held student community events throughout the semester, including a Pi Day celebration, MathSlam, regular graduate seminars, and an AMDUG dinner with a guest speaker.

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 working group
- Attend events!

[LEARN MORE ON THE APMA
WEBSITE](#)