

News from the Applied Math
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Fall 2024

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The Fall 2024 semester is coming to a close, 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. **This newsletter serves as a public record of the DEI Committee's recent activities and a measure of our accountability to the community.**

Our current committee members are:

- **Main Committee:** Kavita Ramanan (committee chair), Colden Bobowick, Rachel Daigle, Pratyush Potu, Bjorn Sandstede, Lulabel Seitz, and Rosanna Wertheimer.
- **Graduate Subcommittee:** Mara Freilich, Candy Hall, Hyunwoo Kwon, Pratyush Potu, Lulabel Ruiz Seitz, Bjorn Sandstede, Christine Tseng, Rosanna Wertheimer, Xiaoding Yang
- **Undergraduate Subcommittee:** Colden Bobowick, Amalia Culiuc, Carina Curto, Simone Donoho, Shivani Mendiratta, Duncan Steeples, Jordan Stornelli, Peyam Tabrizian, Natalie Wadwha

We wish everyone a warm and restful winter break!

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Our Fall 2024 Accomplishments

Events & Programs

- **Career/Professional Development Community Meeting** - on October 22, the DEI Committee hosted a community gathering for graduate students, postdocs, and faculty to discuss their experiences with career preparation and professional development as applied mathematicians. We had a great turnout, and some of the main themes/takeaways from the discussion included:
 - Increased opportunities for graduate student/postdoc interactions
 - More consolidated resources, links, and guides for graduate student career pathways and professional development
 - Improved facilitation of alumni networking
 - More resources for learning programming software and languages (MATLAB, C++, Python)

- **Undergrad/Faculty Social** - on November 19, we hosted a social for APMA concentrators and faculty to build our undergraduate community. Attendees played human bingo and took on the [Marshmallow Challenge!](#)
- **TA Guidelines** - following two Spring 2024 community meetings about TA experiences in APMA, the DEI Undergraduate Subcommittee reworked the department's guidelines for UTAs and GTAs to provide clearer information on responsibilities, expectations, workload, and more. This information was shared with instructors and TAs prior to the start of the Fall 2024 semester.
- **APMA Faculty Lunch Hours** - this fall, we piloted a monthly faculty lunch hour to build our faculty community. Faculty can bring their lunches and chat informally with other professors outside the office and the classroom.
- **Staff Check-ins** - the department is piloting a series of staff peer check-ins to promote staff well-being and connectivity. Staff members are paired up and asked to meet 3 times at periodic intervals over the course of the academic year to check in about what is going well, what has been challenging, and where staff could use additional support.
- **APMA Connect** - this semester, the DEI undergraduate subcommittee continued its series of peer check-ins with Applied Math concentrators to learn more about the experience our concentrators have (what has gone well, what challenges they've faced, and what the department can do to help). The program collected feedback from 25 juniors this semester, and the results are being compiled and analyzed for overall trends.
- **Graduate Student Check-in Meetings** - Candy Hall and Rosanna Wertheimer 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

- **Welcome Back Newsletter** - the DEI Committee sent an additional newsletter in September to the APMA community to welcome everyone back and highlight important campus resources.
- **Integral Figures slides** - throughout the year, we are posting a series of slides titled "Integral Figures and Mathematical Models" which highlight the contributions of important figures from historically underrepresented groups to mathematics and to STEM fields more broadly. You can view these slides on the screen at the 170 Hope St. lobby, and they will change periodically throughout the year!
- **Mentoring** - the Division clarified its tracking of and expectations for current mentor/mentee relationships between faculty and postdocs through reminder emails in the fall semester.

Looking Ahead

- **Spring 2025 Events** - the DEI Committee and its subcommittees plan to host a community meeting, a DEI-related workshop, a prelim prep discussion, a lightning talk session for graduate students, the annual celebration of mathematics in May, and more. Watch for emails from the DEI Committee with more details!

APMA Fall 2024 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:

- **Math Sphere Seminar Series** - Professor Oanh Nguyen organized a new seminar series called Math Sphere, which provides more informal opportunities for graduate students (especially female and other minority genders) to talk with faculty speakers about their research and their life experiences.
- **Weekly Digests for Students** - to continue streamlining department communications and sharing community opportunities with our students, two digests are being sent weekly: one to undergraduates taking APMA courses; and one to APMA graduate students. These digests compile upcoming departmental and university events, announcements, and opportunities that are of interest to our students.
- **Open Office Hours** - APMA lecturers continued to offer a series of regular biweekly office hours open to all undergraduates with questions about APMA courses and concentrations.
- **Community Social Events** - The Division hosted several community gatherings this semester, including our regular weekly Tea Times, Welcome Back Celebrations on September 12 and September 27, and a Holiday Gathering for the APMA community on December 6.
- **Postdoc Events** - The Division organized three postdoc events - a postdoc lunch on October 1, a lightning talk event with 4 postdoc speakers, and a multi-department joint social on November 14 - to build postdoc community and continue offering opportunities for postdoc networking and connectivity.
- **Student Group Events** - APMA student groups held student community events throughout the semester, including regular graduate seminars, academic coffee chats, and a Halloween murder mystery night.

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

[LEARN MORE ON THE APMA
WEBSITE](#)