

# University of Michigan Mathematics Department Newsletter



## Commencement Activities

The Mathematics Undergraduate Commencement will be held at 2pm on Friday, April 30. We will also be hosting a second live viewing party for international students at 10pm on the same day. You may find more details on this [site](#).

Commencement activities for PhD and MS students will be held at 9am on Friday, April 30. Links to this virtual activity, as well as College, Rackham, and University virtual commencement services are available on this [site](#).

## Undergraduates

### Undergraduates Receive National Awards

We are proud to announce that several of our undergraduate students have recently received national recognition. The mathematics students below are three of the 410 (51 in Mathematics and Computer Science) recipients of [Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships](#) for 2021-2022.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

**Henry Fleischmann** (*Mathematics, Computer Science*)  
**John Haviland** (*Mathematics*)  
**Sophie Kriz** (*Mathematics*)

Several of our graduating Mathematics majors have secured NSF Graduate Research Fellowships. They are going on to exciting academic fields.

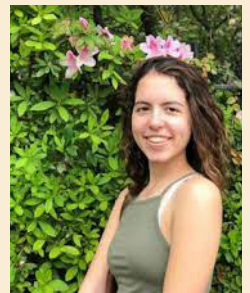
**Sabrina Corsetti** (*Physics & Astronomy*)  
**Jeremy D'Silva** (*Life Sciences*)  
**Shiliang Gao** (*Mathematics*)  
**Eric Winsor** (*Machine Learning*)  
**Maiya Yu** (*Life Sciences*)

### Senior Spotlights

Over the past few months, the Mathematics undergraduate website has included profiles of some of our graduating seniors. We are sharing some from previous months here. You can see the most recent cohort on this [page](#).

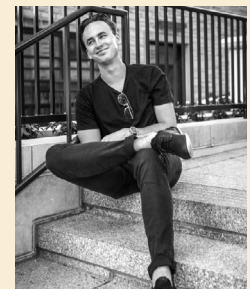
#### **MARISA O'GARA**, *Mathematical Sciences: Discrete & Algorithmic Methods*

Marisa is from Ashland, Massachusetts and jumped right into campus life here at the U of M! She is a part of the synchronized skating club team on campus, and a member of the engineering sorority, Phi Sigma Rho. Coming to the U of M, Marisa was very undecided about what she wanted to major in, but after taking Math 285 and then later Math 217, she realized how much she enjoyed inquiry-based learning and proof-based math. It's been difficult at times, but overall she feels that she has grown a lot as a mathematician and a person throughout the past 4 years. Marisa has already accepted a software engineering position that will start after graduation in May!



#### **FAUSTAS UDRENAS**, *Pure Mathematics*

Since Faustas was a kid, he's loved solving puzzles and playing strategy games, which naturally lead him down a path into mathematics. He still gets that same child-like excitement towards mathematics today! Late nights in the math atrium with good friends studying for exams and doing homework will always be some of his most cherished memories here at the University of Michigan. In his free time, Faustas enjoys writing and creating music, reading books, and taking care of his plants! After graduation he plans on taking a year off to explore what the world has in store, with plans to go to grad school for Mathematics eventually.

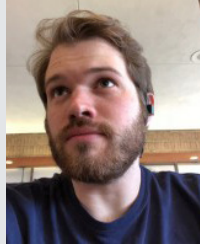


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## Graduate

### Graduate Student Spotlight

**Leighton Wilson** entered the Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics PhD program in 2015. Leighton's love of science and math was inspired by his grandfather who spent his career as a civil engineer and still pulls out his old calculus and differential equations textbooks to do math for fun. Leighton enjoys playing the banjo because of its cultural importance and rich history. Leighton also enjoys the tactile experience of playing and collecting vinyl records. Leighton enjoys Americana, progressive rock, most artists with ties back home to Alabama, and pre-war blues. Leighton completed the Trans-Zion Trek, a 47 mile backpacking route in Zion National Park. "It was quite honestly the hardest thing I've ever done, but the views were spectacular." He will receive his PhD this month.



## Postdoc

### Postdoc Spotlight

**Ricardo Grande** joined the Mathematics Department in 2020 as a Postdoctoral Assistant Professor. He grew up in Bilbao, a small city in northern Spain, completed his master's degree in the UK, and moved to the US to pursue a PhD at MIT. His research in dispersive PDEs and wave turbulence involves techniques from probability and harmonic analysis. He loves detective novels, blue cheese and learning new languages.



### Upcoming Defenses:

**Haoyang Guo**, Cohomology Of Non-Smooth Rigid Analytic Spaces, Date: 5/7/2021, 2:00 PM, [Zoom link](#)

**Yuxin Wang**, Date: 5/10/2021, 2:00 PM, [Zoom link](#)

**Zhan Jiang**, Date: 5/13/2021, 1:00 PM, [Zoom link](#)

**Yuchen Liao**, Date: 5/19/2021, 3:00 PM

**Can Chen**, Multi-linear Control Systems Theory and its Applications, Date: 5/20/2021, 2:00 PM, [Zoom link](#)

**Farrah Yhee**, Date: 5/28/2021, 12:30 PM, [Zoom link](#)

**Eamon Quinlan-Gallego**, Bernstein-Sato Theory In Positive Characteristic, Date: 6/2/2021, 10:00 AM, [Zoom link](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### MLB Mini-Symposium

April 22nd from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, [Zoom link](#)

**Passcode:** MLBGr@dz, A virtual reception will follow [here](#)

**Password:** M@thGr@dz

Please reply on this [2021 MLB Mini-symposium Invitation](#) so that we know how many people to expect.

#### A Conversation with Karen Uhlenbeck

We are very excited to welcome UM Alumna Karen Uhlenbeck (BA 1964) for a virtual conversation on May 6 at 4pm. All are welcome to participate. Links for submitting questions and joining the event are available [here](#).



**Trachette Jackson** has been named a 2021 Fellow of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. Election to fellowship honors SIAM members who are recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the discipline. Professor Jackson is recognized for innovative contributions to mathematical modeling in cancer biology and for the advancement of underrepresented minorities in science.

#### Sarah Koch Recognized for Teaching

The Michigan Section of the Mathematical Association of America announced that the 2021 Michigan Section recipient of the MAA Award for Distinguished Teaching is Sarah Koch. The award is highlighted in their most recent [newsletter](#).

**Oscar Fernandez**, who received his PhD in 2009 under the direction of Tony Bloch, was named a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow in Applied Mathematics. Oscar is currently a Class of 1966 Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Faculty Director of the Pforzheimer Learning and Teaching Center at Wellesley College. Guggenheim Fellowships are very competitive, and are considered a significant recognition of current and potential research. Oscar is the only mathematician (applied or pure) to be named a fellow for 2021. Congratulations on this accomplishment!