

# MSCI NEWSLETTER

**MSCI NEWSLETTER**  
**MAY 2025 ISSUE**

## From the Interim Chair

Dear Friends, Alumni, Students, and Colleagues,

As the academic year concludes and my tenure as interim chair comes to an end, it's time to celebrate our incredible progress! The undergraduate program is gaining renewed momentum, with talented students emerging through the honors program and embracing the major. Even more exciting, we've reinvigorated PhD recruitment, welcoming our strongest graduate cohort in years—including one of our own former undergraduates. This is a true testament to our growing talent pipeline. Our students continue to shine with exceptional research progress and dedication to instruction, and the Department is profoundly grateful for their contributions. Check out our student award winners on the following pages!



*Thomas Hagen*

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and the College, the Department is bringing to life a cutting-edge digital seminar room in Dunn Hall 313, a hub for global research collaboration and a showcase of our scientific impact. Our Directed Reading Program is taking off, inspiring undergraduates to explore research, while Career Services continues to empower students with job-readiness workshops and internships that set them on a path to success.

Exciting times lie ahead! Pending approval, John Haddock, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, will take the helm as interim chair, bringing wisdom and dedication to the Department. Let's rally behind him and offer our full support as he leads us into a new chapter!

With best wishes for the future,

T.H.



## New Colleagues



A native of Houston, Texas, **Isaac Bancroft** joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Teaching in Spring 2025. He will receive his PhD from the University of North Texas in the coming months. Welcome!

## Retiring Colleagues



**David Dwiggins**, Assistant Professor of Teaching and Coordinator, will retire at the end of this academic year. From his start as an Instructor of Mathematics at Memphis State University in 1989, David has been a shining example of

dedication and passion for education. His tireless support of undergraduate and graduate students and his infectious enthusiasm for mathematics have left an enduring mark on the Department. Wishing you a retirement filled with joy, adventure, and excitement!

After an extraordinary 39-year career at the University of Memphis, **Pei-Kee Lin**, Full Professor of Mathematics, has announced his retirement at the end of this academic year. A distinguished scholar in Functional Analysis and Nonlinear Analysis, his groundbreaking contributions have earned him international recognition and admiration. His impact on the Department is immeasurable, and his absence will be deeply felt. We celebrate his remarkable career and his lasting legacy. Wishing you a retirement filled with happiness and new adventures ahead!



## Returning Colleagues

Pending approval, **John Haddock**, Professor Emeritus in Mathematical Sciences, will return from retirement to take on the role of Interim Chair, beginning August 18, 2025.



We are thrilled to welcome him back and wish him great success in this new chapter. May this phase be filled with success, inspiration, and fulfillment. The Department is fortunate to have his leadership once again!

After more than 35 distinguished years at the University of Memphis, **Anna Kaminska**, Full Professor of Mathematics, will retire at the end of this academic year. A pioneering force in Functional Analysis and a true visionary in the study of Function Spaces, her groundbreaking research has left an enduring imprint on the field. Her unwavering dedication to mentoring the next generation of mathematicians and her long-standing role as Graduate Coordinator have shaped the Department into a thriving center of academic excellence. In recognition of her legacy and impact, Anna has been awarded Emerita status. As she embarks on this well-earned retirement, we congratulate Anna on an extraordinary journey and an inspiring career. All the best in your well-deserved retirement!



## Student Spotlight

Our students have demonstrated exceptional success in both research and instruction. This section proudly showcases a select few of their honors and accomplishments from the spring semester of 2025. They all deserve our heartfelt congratulations and encouragement to boldly pursue mathematical and statistical ideas with creativity and ingenuity. To future students: Let their achievements inspire you to reach new heights. Embrace the challenges, seek the truth, and contribute to the world of Mathematics and Statistics with passion and determination. Your journey starts here!

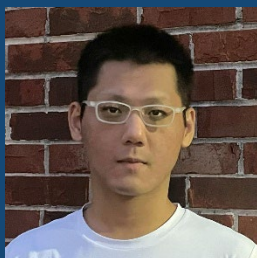
**Gordian Bruns**, graduate assistant in Mathematics, is being recognized as the 2025 Department of Mathematical Sciences Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Awardee and a 2025 Dr. Ralph Faudree Awardee for his research presentation



"Intersecting Families in the Permutahedron." The Faudree awards are made possible through the generous support of Dr. Faudree's family.



**Sara Alsuradi**, graduate assistant in Mathematics, won first prize in the Graduate Competition for Mathematics and Computer Science at the 2025 Student Research Forum. Her poster presentation was entitled "Energy Decays in Nonlinear Second-Order Evolution Equations with Underdamping and Overdamping."



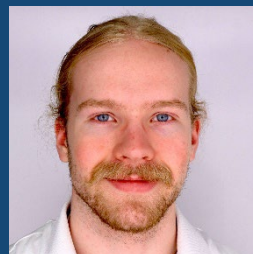
**Uttaran Choudhury**, graduate assistant in Mathematics, is being recognized as a 2025 Dr. Ralph Faudree Awardee for his research presentation "Pointwise Convergence of Modulated Averages along Subsequences." The Faudree awards are made possible through the generous support of Dr. Faudree's family.



**Runze Wang**, graduate assistant in Mathematics, received the 2025 Graduate Assistant Meritorious Teaching Award. Runze was chosen as awardee amongst all university graduate assistants.



**Jake Stewart**, an undergraduate student majoring in Mathematics and Physics, won first prize in the Undergraduate Competition for Mathematics and Computer Science at the 2025 Student Research Forum. His poster presentation was entitled "Pursuit and Escape of  $L^1$  Pursuer and  $L^2$  Target."





## Other News and Initiatives

### Directed Reading Program

The Department has successfully launched its **Directed Reading Program**, enriching the appeal of our major. Under Stephen Guffey's leadership, undergraduate students are paired with faculty and graduate mentors to delve into advanced topics in Mathematics and Statistics. The first cohort has now completed their inaugural research experiences, marking an exciting milestone for the program.

### Career Services



Partnering with **Career Services**, the Department remains committed to organizing discipline-specific internship opportunities and tailored career-readiness workshops for undergraduate and graduate students in Mathematics and Statistics. New internship offerings with UBS, First Horizon Bank and other employers are being explored.

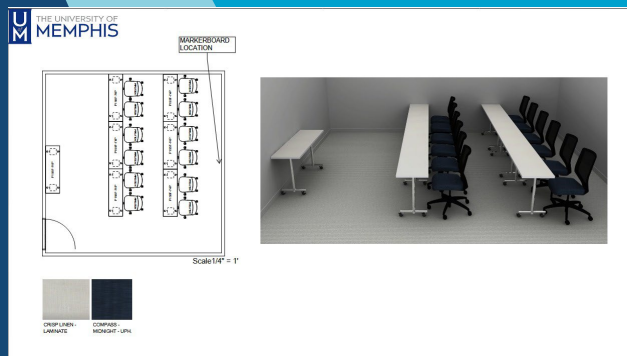
## We need you!

The Department has achieved incredible progress, made possible by the unwavering dedication of our alumni and friends. Your support fuels our mission, and we are immensely grateful.

Thank you

for standing with us - past, present, and future!

### Digital Seminar Room



Thanks to the generous support of our donors and a grant from the College of Arts and Sciences Research Instrumentation Initiative (PI: Thomas Hagen), the Department is creating a state-of-the-art **digital seminar room** in Dunn Hall 313. This cutting-edge space will foster interactive seminars, workshops, and collaborative research, allowing researchers and students to connect and engage beyond geographical boundaries. Equipped with advanced audio-visual technology, presentation boards, movable seating, and dedicated workspaces, it will serve as a dynamic hub for discipline-specific and interdisciplinary dialogue, driving innovation and accelerating research progress. The grand opening is set for Summer 2025!



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