

Department of Mathematics Outstanding Service and Teaching Awards Spring 2025

Outstanding Service Awards

Todd Schrader

Todd Schrader joined the math faculty in 2017. For several years, he organized the derivative and integral bees. These events require much organization and coordination among faculty, graduate students, volunteers and competitors which include students from local high schools. He was also the faculty advisor for Aggie Actuaries. He brought in speakers from industry, allowing students to network and to get a good idea of what the life of an actuary is.

Importantly, Todd has much institutional knowledge and wisdom as a frequent instructor of Math 151 and 152. Consistency in these courses is important and as a team member in these courses he is an invaluable resource. Todd also serves the department and university in several other ways. He is the faculty advisor for several Frisbee related clubs and he frequently helps with such events as the High School Math Contest and other outreach events.

Most recently, Todd joined the Math Advising Team in Summer 2024. He has done an exceptionally good job of learning all of the intricacies of our course requirements, and is able to quickly find solutions to problems he has not encountered before. Todd is an excellent resource for our students, as he can share his personal experiences and guide our majors with first-hand knowledge of our courses, degree plans, professors, etc. He is a great asset to our advising team, and we are lucky to have him on board.

Kun Wang

One of Dr. Wang's most impactful initiatives is the PReMa (Program for Research in Mathematics), which she co-founded in 2022 and continues to direct. Under her leadership, PReMa has become the first research-focused outreach program of its kind in our department. It was awarded the MAA DMEG funding for the 2024–2025 academic year and has already been approved for continued support in 2025–2026. The program has resulted in a publication in The Pi Mu Epsilon Journal (2024), and student presentations at prestigious conferences such as MAA MathFest and the TX-LA Undergraduate Mathematics Conference. Dr. Wang also serves as the primary organizer of our Math Circle program, held weekly on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Further amplifying her service, Dr. Wang organized the REACH 2024 High School Paper Contest in collaboration with the Houston CAPA Association. This year, she is also leading the organization of the REACH 2025 Conference, which will showcase

research from the PReMa program.

At the national level, Dr. Wang's influence is equally noteworthy. Her invitations to present at both the 2024 Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) and MAA MathFest 2024 brought significant visibility to our department's outreach efforts. These presentations have helped spread awareness of our programs to a broader audience, attracting students from other states to participate in the PReMa program and online Math Circle sessions.

Outstanding Teaching Awards

Matthias Maier

Dr. Maier has performed extremely well in his classroom teaching duties. He has nimbly adapted to various audiences. His numerical student course evaluation results are excellent. A student in his MATH 437 course in Fall 2021 wrote: "This class was so interesting to me and I feel as though Dr. Maier really contributed to that. He was so engaged and prepared for every class and I really appreciated it. His passion for the topic was apparent and it made class so enjoyable." A student in MATH 417 wrote in Fall 2024: "This may be the best course I have taken in college, highly recommend this course, teacher was extremely helpful and very practical." These enthusiastic comments are typical of students across his undergraduate and graduate courses, with students praising his organization, preparation, approachability, kindness, and enthusiasm for the subjects he is teaching.

In addition to excellent classroom teaching, Dr. Maier has initiated a summer school for advanced undergraduate students hosted by TAMU. In the two-week summer school advanced undergraduate students from across the US first engage in lectures and lab sessions to learn the basics of numerical computation for partial differential equations, and in the second portion of the school they then complete related group projects.

John Weeks

Dr. Weeks' dedication to his own students, the department's graduate students, and youth participating in Math Circle exemplifies the selection criteria for a teaching Award. He consistently receives outstanding evaluations from his students and the department. His departmental reports highlight his strong connection with his students. This connection is based on the organized structure of his courses, openness to questions and discussions outside of class, and Dr. Weeks' good-humored and cheerful approach he has with his students. Professor Weeks is also active in the department's Distance Master's degree. He has taught several successful classes for the program and is the chair for several students' committees. Throughout his time at TAMU, Dr. Weeks has also worked to develop additional resources and engaging activities for students. Since 2023, he has been involved with the Math Learning Center, designing and leading popular programs such as 'Hands on

Grades Up' for Calculus 3. He desires for upper level mathematics to be approachable and to give students as many opportunities as possible to ask questions and interact with the content. Professor Weeks' commitment to teaching and mentorship is having a significant impact on students. His ability to connect with them, and to create engaging and well-structured courses, reflects his dedication to teaching. Dr. Weeks has shown an exceptional ability to inspire and support those around him.