

# MU ALPHA THETA

March 2025



## Dana C. Wade

### Message from the Executive Director

Many schools will enjoy Spring Break this month - rest and relax!

2025 graduations will be here before you know it. Have you ordered your Mu Alpha Theta cords, stoles, tassels, or medals for your graduating seniors? Please make those orders this month to avoid the rush in April and May! Don't forget that our system will only allow you to order graduation regalia for registered seniors.

Our National Convention registration is OPEN! We hope that you can join us in Orlando this July. Please see the sponsor packet on our website for the information that you will need to register. This year, the registration fee of \$500 will cover all convention testing and contests, all convention meals, buses to and from the airport, and our buses and excursion on that Wednesday. You are responsible for your travel and hotel. Remember that staying at the Rosen Plaza is mandatory for every chapter!

2025 scholarship winners will be posted on our website on April 1!

Our Math Minutes video contest is underway! 59 schools submitted a total of 79 videos. Those will go to Doral Academy in Florida for ranking, and the top 8 videos will be sent out to all active chapters for voting in April. Be sure to vote!

## Robert Snow

### Message from the President

Hello all,

The year is progressing quickly, and Mu Alpha Theta events and competitions are happening all over the country. We are getting closer to our National Convention July 6-11 in Orlando. We have a Zoom meeting about the Orlando Convention coming up on March 16 at 6pm Eastern time. There are only two more meetings before the May 1 deadline to attend the National Convention.

If anyone has any questions about their chapter, please email me at [robsnow23@yahoo.com](mailto:robsnow23@yahoo.com). Thanks and enjoy your well-deserved Spring Break!

# Dr. Chuck Garner

**2024-2025 Rockdale County Teacher of the Year**



Dr. Chuck Garner was named 2024-2025 Rockdale County Teacher of the Year!

Dr. Garner, who serves as the MAA representative to the Mu Alpha Theta Governing Council, was recently honored by his school district. Read more about it [here](#).

Congratulations, Dr. Garner!

**Introducing:**  
**Lekan Babaniyi**



Olalekan (or Lekan) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Mathematics and Statistics at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he teaches various math courses and conducts research. His research primarily focuses on developing efficient methods to solve inverse problems in the elastography field (a specialized branch of medical imaging) where the goal is to estimate the stiffness of soft tissue from measurements of its deformation. These stiffness estimates can be used to non-invasively diagnose and assist with the treatment of various diseases.

Olalekan is also the SIAM representative for Mu Alpha Theta. He has been on the governing council for MAT since 2020 and primarily helps to advertise various activities that SIAM organizes (such as the math modeling M3 Challenge) to the MAT community. He enjoys attending conventions and seeing students participate in various math-related competitions and activities. Outside of work, he enjoys playing soccer.

# Karen Kating

## Message from the Assistant Executive Director

Remember you have four free shipments per school year. Orders placed the same day will be boxed and shipped together and considered one shipment. After the four free shipments, you will be charged \$25.00 per shipment.

Our system only releases cords for seniors, so if you are adding seniors, you will need to place two orders. The first order will need to be the members and as soon as you submit that, go back and place a second order for the cords. You can order one additional cord over the number of seniors to use as a replacement if something happens to one. I have had sponsors tell me they order the extra every time and they have a bundle so if they are needed for replacements at the last minute.

Please remember to order graduation regalia early.

If a sponsor is leaving their Mu Alpha Theta chapter, please have the new sponsor email us at [info@mualphatheta.org](mailto:info@mualphatheta.org) for a sponsor update form so we can get our system changed to the new sponsor. We don't want your chapter to miss anything exciting from the National Office!

## Convention Info

The registration for the National Convention in Orlando July 6-11 is now open at [mualphatheta.org](http://mualphatheta.org). Please collect all of the information about your students and sponsors before entering the information online.

The National Convention packet, room list spreadsheet and google summary form are located under National Conventions at [mualphatheta.org](http://mualphatheta.org). The deadline for online registration, full hotel payment to the Rosen Plaza hotel, full registration payment to the National office, and all forms mailed to the National office is May 1.

If anyone has questions along the way about the convention, please email the host, Rob Snow, at [robsnow23@yahoo.com](mailto:robsnow23@yahoo.com).



## 2025 Mu Alpha Theta National Convention



**When?**

July 6-11, 2025



**Where?**

Orlando, Florida



**Registration Opened:**

March 1, 2025



**Registration Closes:**

May 1, 2025

Visit [our website](#) for more information.

# Chalk Talk Topics and Guidelines/Judging

**I.** Topics for each division are: Theta – Math in the Movies, Alpha – Math at Universal Orlando, Mu – Math at Walt Disney World

**II.** The first round talk is to be uploaded to Youtube as an UNLISTED video so that anyone with the link can view the video without issues. The upload is a maximum of 7 minute CONSECUTIVE VIDEO WITH NO EDITS. The student can do multiple practice runs with their talk prior to the FINAL uploaded talk to be graded. The upload is the FINAL VERSION. It is completely up to the student how they present their work (document camera, use a whiteboard/chalkboard, etc.). The student needs to be comfortable with the format they choose. They must, however, use a writing tool in the video to present their talk. The students have up to 7 minutes to do their talk, but it is not required to use all 7 minutes to have a quality Chalk Talk.

The video links for all of the school's competitors must be emailed to Rob Snow at [robsnow23@yahoo.com](mailto:robsnow23@yahoo.com) by 8pm on Saturday June 7. Only one student per division per school. Maximum of 3 students total. For schools who submit 2 or 3 students, please include all of the links in one email.

The first round videos will be judged the week of June 8-14. The 10 finalists in each division will be sent to the sponsors of the students on Monday June 16. The finalists will do their talk live in Orlando on Monday July 7 with 3 judges for a total of 150 points. Chalk talk finalists will be sequestered until their talk is complete.

**III.** Students will be given 7 minutes of uninterrupted time for their presentation on the topic above. Warnings will be given when one minute remains and when 15 seconds remain. Presentations will be cut off at the 7-minute mark. Students may only bring one 3" by 5" index card into the presentation room to use during the presentation. A second 3 x 5 index card will be given to the judges during the preliminary round that contains all sources the presenter used to prepare their talk. All writing materials will be provided.. No one is allowed to enter the room after the speaker begins their talk. Any student or sponsor may attend chalk talks in the Finals round.

**IV.** Chalk Talk presentations will be judged on the scale shown below. Two judges will be assigned each presentation in the preliminary round, for a total of 100 points. Three judges will be assigned each presentation in the final round, for a total of 150 points. The math for each talk must be specific for the speaker's division. Mu – must have elements of Calculus. Alpha – must have elements of Precalculus which can include Trigonometry and introductory limits. Theta – must have elements of Algebra/Geometry.

**VI.** Each school may enter one person per division, and they must register on the on-line Competition Sign-Up form.

**VII.** If anyone has any questions about the Chalk Talk competition, please email Rob Snow at [robsnow23@yahoo.com](mailto:robsnow23@yahoo.com).

# Mu Alpha Theta National Convention Chapter Grants

For 2025, Mu Alpha Theta will award a limited number of convention grants for first-time attendee chapters to attend its in-person National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Members who attend must not have graduated before the convention. Each grant covers registration for a minimum of three members and a sponsor. The remaining funds may be used for additional student registration costs and/or other travel expenses. To be eligible for a grant, a chapter cannot have previously attended a national convention. The intent of the grant is to allow the teacher and students to experience our National Convention for the first time. Only schools with a mathematics sponsor attending and three or more eligible students attending (cannot be graduating seniors) should complete the application.

All National Convention Grant applications are due by April 1, 2025.

[Click here for the National Convention Grant application.](#)

## MU ALPHA THETA NATIONAL CONVENTION NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

The sponsor of each chapter attending the national convention may nominate up to two members for a need-based scholarship. For 2025, each scholarship will provide free registration for an active member in good standing, the standard room cost of one student in a room with four students for the five nights of the convention, and up to \$300 of the student's travel expenses. Travel will be reimbursed after attending the national convention.

Need-Based Scholarship applications are specific to high school students or two-year college students. Please choose the appropriate Need-Based Scholarship application.

**The 2025 National Convention Need-Based Scholarship applications are due by April 1, 2025.**

[See our website for more information.](#)

## March Zoom Meeting

**Topic:** Orlando Convention Zoom Meeting

**Time:** Mar 16, 2025, 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 874 3656 4018

**Passcode:** 964213

# Important Dates

## March 2025

2025 MAΘ National Convention (Orlando) registration OPENS	March 1
Rubin, Andree, GLSA award applications due	March 3
MAΘ Reg. Sponsor of the Year Award applications due	March 15
Orlando Convention Zoom Meeting	March 16

## April 2025

MAΘ National Convention grant submission deadline	April 1
MAΘ Math Minutes video finalists announced, chapter voting opens	April 1
MAΘ Award winners posted	April 1
Orlando Convention Zoom Meeting	April 13





<b>School</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Region</b>
Denver North High School	Denver	CO	1
West Ranch High School	Stevenson Ranch	CA	1
Granada Islamic School	Santa Clara	CA	1
Victory Early College High School	Houston	TX	2
Argyle High School	Flower Mound	TX	2
Vista Ridge High School	Cedar Park	TX	2
Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas	Dallas	TX	2
Stem School Chattanooga	Chattanooga	TN	3
Killian Hill Christian School	Lilburn	GA	4

**New Chapters (02/01/25 - 02/28/25)**



# St. Patrick's Day

March 17, 2025

## What is the probability of finding a four-leaf clover?

According to the legend of Saint Patrick's Day, it is believed that a four-leaf clover brings luck, with each leaf representing hope, faith, love, and the fourth being for luck. The chances of finding a four-leaf clover are approximately 1 in 10,000, but this likelihood can be influenced by genetic and environmental factors, as the gene for a fourth leaf is inheritable, and specific conditions such as temperature, pollution, and soil pH can affect growth. If you find one four-leaf clover, you are more likely to find another in the same area. To improve your chances, it's recommended to search a 12.9 square feet area, quickly glancing over clovers and letting any peculiarities stand out, rather than examining each one individually. Additionally, brushing the area with your foot can help reveal hidden clovers. An interesting fact is that the four "leaves" are actually leaflets making up a single leaf.

Source: [Elizabeth Knowles, "What Are Your Chances of Finding a Four-Leaf Clover? And how can you improve them?" published on March 17, 2016.](#)



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