



September 2024



## New Student Award and Chapter Award

The 2024-2025 school year will bring the inaugural **Lisa C. Herron Community Inclusion Scholarship and Chapter Award** to the Mu Alpha Theta scholarship program!

Named after Mu Alpha Theta's first African American President, these awards will honor a student and a chapter who have worked to bring underrepresented individuals and groups into their Mu Alpha Theta chapter. The student/chapter must be working to increase opportunities for women, people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, or individuals with disabilities to be members of Mu Alpha Theta.

Lisa C. Herron served as Mu Alpha Theta President in 2018 to 2022. Lisa is currently the AP and Cambridge Testing Coordinator at Cypress Bay High School in Weston, FL. A math educator for 32 years, she has taught all levels of mathematics from General Mathematics to Precalculus. Lisa also has taught Cambridge Thinking Skills and Cambridge Information Technology and currently trains teachers nationwide in these two subjects. Throughout her career, Lisa has achieved numerous awards and accolades, including speaking at the NCTM Regional conference in St. Louis, having the Secretary of Education Dr. Miguel Cardona visit her classroom as part of the nation's only FBI CyberSTEM program and being selected as Cypress Bay High School's Teacher of the year for 2022-23. Also, in 2023, Lisa was one of four teachers awarded the State of Florida Educator of Excellence Award and was recognized at a reception in the Governor's Mansion. Lisa's love for mathematics began at an early age, and she was inducted as a member of the Coral Springs High School chapter of Mu Alpha Theta in 1984. Lisa became the sponsor of the Cypress Bay Mu Alpha Theta chapter in 2006 and served in that position until 2022. She currently serves as an advisor and chaperone for the chapter. Lisa has served as the Region V director for the Florida Association of Mu Alpha Theta and was also the FAMAT Vice-President for State Conventions.

More information is available on our website.

## Executive Director Dana Wade's Message

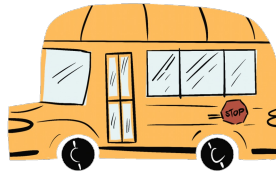
Welcome to our newest chapters of Mu Alpha Theta! We are sure that you will soon feel the sense of pride we share in belonging to this growing honor society. We hope that you will take advantage of the many benefits that come with membership and that you will be able to use your chapter as both a forum for the exchange of innovative ideas and as a resource for your mathematically inclined members. We are looking forward to working with you!



Have you seen our new website? The web address and your chapter's login have remained the same, but major updates have been made! Be sure to check it out. We would like to feature chapter activities, inductions, and service on our website and on our social media. If you have pictures of your Mu Alpha Theta chapter in action, please send them to [info@mualphatheta.org](mailto:info@mualphatheta.org) with permission to publish. Your chapter could be in our next Spotlight!

Our scholarship and award applications opened on September 1. Be sure to let your seniors know about these opportunities, and that the deadline for applications is February 1, 2025 (and, that letters of recommendation should be requested waaaaaaay before February 1!).

Watch for the Log1 Contest information coming soon!



# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Keeping your chapter active!

1. Seek assistance from the other math teachers at your school and any parents or volunteers with math experience. Leading the chapter is a lot of work with many moving parts. Having help from others will make it a little easier.

2. Establish traditions with your chapter. Meetings, practices, tutoring sessions, community service, fundraising. As the sponsor, you choose the path for your chapter each year.

3. Reach out to the freshman class and new students in your school annually. Each year, a great group of members graduates and a new class

comes in. Some of the new students know the organization, but many need to be informed to have the opportunity to participate. Talk to the math teachers who teach the freshman to inform them of meetings and events in the beginning of the school year for students to attend. Mu Alpha Theta can be an activity for younger students where they play a major role in the chapter, in comparison to other extracurricular activities at your school. Freshman are usually in Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. The older students are in more advanced math classes. As a result, the freshman bring something to the chapter just as much as the older members.

Active Chapter continued on page 5



## President Rob Snow's Message

Hello all,

Schools across the country have begun another year as we approach the fall term. I will be hosting monthly zoom meetings for any student or sponsor to ask questions about their chapter or upcoming Mu Alpha Theta events, concluding with the National Convention in Orlando July 6-11, 2025. The dates are listed in the newsletter, along with the September zoom meeting information.

As we see the math talents of our students begin to grow, we must continue to plan for the spring events to come through practices and fundraising. Working together as a school creates the team spirit and helps to achieve your chapter's goals.

I look forward to talking to some of you through the fall zoom meetings as we get ready for the Spring 2025 events.

### **Zoom meetings for interested Students and Sponsors**

The first four zoom meetings of the year will be from 2pm - 3pm Eastern time on

**September 21**

**October 19**

**November 16**

**December 14**

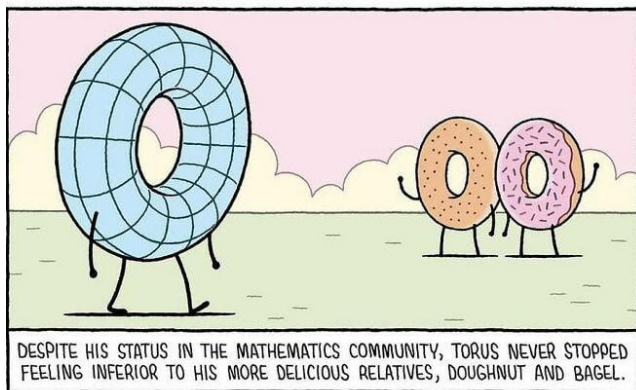
There will be one meeting each month for sponsors and students to attend to ask questions about their local chapter or questions about the National Convention in Orlando July 6-11, 2025.

The September 21 zoom information is below. Please send this to your members who are interested in finding out more about Mu Alpha Theta.

When? Sep 21, 2024 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

To join the Zoom Meeting, use <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86301294133>

Meeting ID: 863 0129 4133





## Welcome the new President-Elect, Radleigh Santos

Our new President-Elect, Dr. Radleigh Santos, brings a lot of experience with him to the office. He has been the head coach for the American Heritage Broward Math Competition Team for the past 20 years. He is also an Associate Professor of Statistics at Nova Southeastern University in Ft.

Lauderdale, FL, after having previously served as Director of Mathematics and Biostatistics at the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies. As a practicing biostatistician, Dr. Santos has received several NIH grants and been co-author on nearly one hundred peer-reviewed publications. He has been the Vice President of State Tests for the Florida Association of Mu Alpha Theta since 2015, and is currently coordinating tests for the upcoming 2025 National Convention. Dr. Santos received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Florida Atlantic University after having received his Bachelor's in Physics from MIT and his Masters in Mathematics from Georgia Tech. He received the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Educator of Distinction Award in 2023, the Halmos College Dean's Service Award in 2022, and the Halmos College Co-Curricular Adviser of the Year for his work with the NSU Math Club and Competition Team. Dr. Santos is excited to be joining the Governing Council and looking forward to advancing Mu Alpha Theta's vital work in supporting mathematics education and service.

### Scholarship Window is Open

Applications for the 2024-2025 Academic Year opened on September 1, 2024. Completed applications must be submitted by February 3, 2025.



Mu Alpha Theta and our Educational Foundation award \$4,000 scholarships to our members every year. Any graduating high school senior or two-year college student who is an active member of a current Mu Alpha Theta chapter is eligible. Each chapter may submit applications for up to two members, at the chapter sponsor's discretion.

The nominee should be an outstanding mathematics student and should have shown loyalty and dedication to his/her Mu Alpha Theta chapter, enthusiastically participating in local projects with evidence of service in mathematics.

Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded to the qualifying top scholarship candidates:

Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship  
Paul R. Goodey Scholarship  
Kay Weiss Scholarship

## Scholarship Deadline: 2/3/25

For a printed version of this month's newsletter, please go to [MuAlphaTheta.org](https://MuAlphaTheta.org) > Resources > Newsletter Archive



# 2025 National Convention



The 2025 National Convention in Orlando, Florida July 6-11, 2025 information is available now online. The sponsor packet, School summary Google sheet, and hotel room reservation spreadsheet are at: [MAT sponsor page](#)

The convention will be at the Rosen Plaza hotel in Orlando.



In addition to the many math contests during the week, on Wednesday July 9, the attendees will choose to go to one of the four Disney World parks (Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom) or the Universal Studios parks (Universal Studios and Islands of Adventure). If your school is interested in a multiple day ticket to Disney World or Universal Studios, the prices are in the Sponsor Packet.



After working hard all day on mathematics, the schools will be able to order from Papa Johns with a 50% discount on their order EVERY NIGHT! A code will be given to each school and you can enjoy all the pizza, bread sticks and wings you'd like at 50% off the total bill.

If anyone has questions about the National Convention throughout the year, please email the national office at [info@mualphatheta.org](mailto:info@mualphatheta.org) and we'll be happy to assist you.



## Active Chapter, continued

4. The students must play a strong leadership role in the chapter. This is where you as the sponsor choose what role(s) they will have. The students should be leading the meetings and practices. Members get more involved when the older members are leading them. Members can bring ideas forward on the community service activities your chapter could participate in. Each subject should have multiple members helping each other in terms of tutoring in the school and working with each other to improve their math skills for the contests the school participates in.



5. Sponsors should investigate competitions available to the school. Mu Alpha Theta annually sponsors multiple contests throughout the year: Log1, Rocket City Math League, etc. There could be local math events sponsored by other Mu Alpha Theta chapters or colleges. There could be state math events as well. Each summer, the National Convention is sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta. Participating in multiple events during the year gives your members opportunities to work together and improve to compete. Coming together as a group, having fun, and improving mathematically are always the annual goals your chapter should have.

6. The top concern of any sponsor is fundraising. As we all know, prices have gone up and hotels, travel and registration prices need to be planned for so that the chapter can attend. Each chapter has local opportunities to raise money together. Having multiple paths to raising money is important for your chapter to continue to grow each year. How you choose to raise the money is up to you and the rules that your school and district have in and out of school. The top ways are restaurant fundraisers, food sales, car washes. Having an annual fundraising plan for your chapter gives you the ability to continue to grow your chapter over time.

7. Every chapter had to start from scratch. It takes time for a chapter to create traditions and grow each school year. Try new things, recruit new members, and see what works for you and your school. There will be good years and tough years based on the students that you work with and circumstances involving your school and community. All you can do as a sponsor is your best to support your students and their futures.

Need help? Just ask, we are here to assist you.



### Chapter T-Shirts

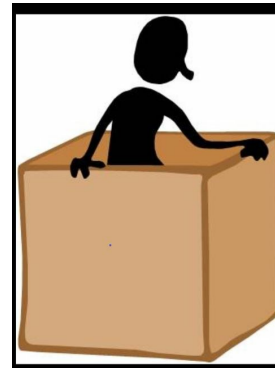
Mu Alpha Theta loves chapter T-shirts. However, it must be clear to all that your T-shirt represents your chapter and not the National organization.

Therefore, we ask that you help preserve our copyright by seeking permission for your design. Send your design to [info@mualphatheta.org](mailto:info@mualphatheta.org).

1) The side of the shirt that shows the logo, MAT, and/or Mu Alpha Theta must include the school name or its initials.

2) Please include your chapter # in your email.

We do not critique your design; we just check that your chapter is a member and that you follow rule #1 above.



### Shipping

You only have two (2) free shipments per school year so make sure to bundle orders/member registrations together to save on shipping. Remember one shipment will be for cords. And if you are adding seniors at the same time as ordering cords, you will need to make two orders. But if orders are made same day, they will be packed together and be considered one shipment.

If you enter the wrong shipping address and UPS has to correct it, we get charged for it so we have to charge that expense back to your chapter.

### MA0 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION DONATIONS:

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation this year! Your donations help fund scholarships and grants for members, sponsors, and chapters. We accept donations year-round.

### Condolences

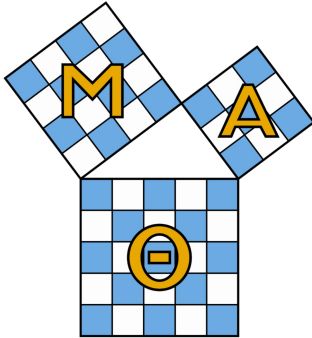
Mu Alpha Theta would like to express condolences to the Winder, Georgia, community for the loss of their two mathematics teachers and two students.

## New Sponsor?

If you are taking over for a sponsor, please let the office know so we can update your chapter, this information is how you reset your password and how you receive important information from Mu Alpha Theta.



Please be patient with us on matters such as these. The new website is like a new student who doesn't agree with everything we expect it to do!



## Let us Feature Your Chapter

Tell us about your chapter's incredible activities, and we may feature your chapter in one of our upcoming newsletters or on our website and social media. Send photos and articles to [info@mualphatheta.org](mailto:info@mualphatheta.org). Subject line: For the newsletter. Ideas:

- Community Service ideas
- Induction ceremonies
- Activities

## Social Media

A chapter's social media account should include the school's name at the beginning of the title, for example "Smith High School Mu Alpha Theta". It is critical to get permission from a teacher or other approved adult before creating a social media account for your chapter. There must be administrative oversight of any site using Mu Alpha Theta. Most importantly, remember online content is not private!



**Thanks!** to our partner organizations who offer their support to Mu Alpha Theta. These include the following with their representatives listed:

- American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (Mari Menard);
- Mathematics Association of America (Dr. Chuck Garner);
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (Sarah Hyde); and
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (Lekan Babaniyi).

## Mu Alpha Theta Upcoming Events

<b>September 2024</b>	
1	Scholarship and Award applications open on MAΘ website
2	Labor Day - National Office closed
25-28	NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition, Chicago, Illinois
<b>October 2024</b>	
3	Newsletter submission due
10	Newsletter due to email boxes
21-25	SIAM Conference on Mathematics of Data Science, Atlanta, Georgia
<b>November 2024</b>	
14-17	AMATYC Conference, Atlanta, Georgia
27-29	Thanksgiving Holiday - National Office closed



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