

# Moira A. McDermott

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Mathematics, University of Michigan, 1996  
Thesis advisor: Melvin Hochster  
Dissertation: *Tight closure, plus closure and Frobenius closure in homogeneous coordinate rings of certain elliptic curves*  
M.S., University of Michigan, 1992  
A.B. (summa cum laude, with honors in math), Bryn Mawr College, 1988  
(coursework in mathematics, Sommerville College, Oxford University, 1986-1987)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Commutative Algebra, Computational Algebra

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Syracuse University, Associate Teaching Professor & Assistant Chair, 2019-current  
Syracuse University, Assistant Teaching Professor & Assistant Chair, 2018-2019  
Syracuse University, Assistant Professor & Assistant Chair, 2007-2018  
Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Visiting Assistant Professor, 2006-2007  
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Gustavus Adolphus College  
Associate Professor, 2004-2007  
Assistant Professor, 1998-2004  
Syracuse University, Visiting Researcher, 2004-2005  
University of Kansas, Visiting Researcher, Spring 2002  
Department of Mathematics, Bowdoin College  
Visiting Assistant Professor, 1996 - 1998  
Department of Mathematics, University of Michigan  
Associate Coordinator of Professional Development (Fall 1995)  
Instructor Training (Summer 1995)  
Graduate Student Instructor, calculus, (Fall 1994, Spring 1994, Fall 1993)

## PUBLICATIONS

*Hilbert-Kunz functions for normal rings*, with C. Huneke and P. Monsky,  
Math. Res. Letters **11** (2004), no. 4, 539-546.  
*Test ideals in diagonal hypersurface rings II*, Journal of Algebra, **264** (2003), no. 1, 296-304.

**PUBLICATIONS (continued)**

- Active Learning in Abstract Algebra: An Arsenal of Techniques*, with S. Belcastro and L. Burton, in *Innovations in Teaching Abstract Algebra*, eds. Allen C. Hibbard and Ellen Parker, MAA Notes, 60, MAA, Washington, D.C., 2002.
- Test ideals in diagonal hypersurface rings*, *Journal of Algebra* **237** (2001), no. 1, 38-48.
- Tight closure, plus closure and Frobenius closure in cubical cones*, *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* **352** (2000), no. 1, 95-114.
- Regular closure*, *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* **127** (1999), no. 7, 1975-1979.
- Strongly bounded rings*, *Journal of Algebra* **199** (1998), no. 2, 690-702.

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- Project NEXt Fellow, 1997-1998
- Rackham Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 1996
- U.S. Department of Education Fellowship, 1990-1993
- Anna Pell Wheeler Prize in Mathematics, Bryn Mawr College, 1988

**FUNDING**

- MAA CoMInDS Summer Workshop, July 2018.
- Summer Institute for Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning, Syracuse University, June 2013.
- AMS travel grant to attend International Congress of Mathematicians, August 2006.
- IAS/Park City Mathematics Institute, UG Faculty Program, funded participant, June, 2005.
- NSF-AWM Mentoring Travel Grant, June, 2003. (Up to 7 awarded each year.)
- MSRI workshop (2), funded participant, December, 2002 and February, 2003.
- NSF-AWM International Travel Grant, 2002.
- Gustavus Adolphus Bush Summer Teaching Workshop, Fellow, 2001.
- Gustavus Adolphus Research Scholarship & Creativity Grant, 2000.
- Gustavus Adolphus J-term focus grant, January, 2000.
- AWM Workshop at MSRI, funded postdoctoral participant, July, 1999.
- Rocky Mountain Mathematics Consortium Summer Conference, funded participant, June, 1999.
- COCOA, International School, funded participant, June, 1999.
- AWM Workshop at Joint Meetings, funded postdoctoral participant, January, 1999.  
(8 awarded each year.)
- MSRI Introductory Workshop, funded participant, August, 1998.
- AWM Workshop at MSRI, funded postdoctoral participant, July, 1996.

**INVITED PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES** (participation by invitation only)

- Commutative Algebra: Homological and Birational Theory*, September 11 - 16, 2004,  
Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery (BIRS).

## PRESENTATIONS

### Research Presentations at Professional Meetings

- AMS Special Session on Hilbert Functions and Resolutions, invited talk,  
AMS Western Section Meeting, San Francisco, California, April, 2006.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
Joint Mathematics Meeting, Atlanta, January, 2005.
- CMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
Canadian Mathematical Society, Montreal, Quebec, December, 2004.
- Current Trends in Commutative Algebra, contributed talk,  
Centro Internazionale di Ricerca Matematica, Levico, Italy, June, 2002.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
AMS Central Section Meeting, Ann Arbor, Michigan, March, 2002.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
AMS Eastern Section Meeting, Williamstown, Massachusetts, October, 2001.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
AMS Central Section Meeting, Lawrence, Kansas, May, 2001.
- Midwest Algebraic Geometry Conference, contributed talk,  
University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, October, 1999.
- Olga Taussky Todd Celebration at MSRI, poster, funded participant,  
Berkeley, California, July, 1999.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry, invited talk,  
Joint Meetings, San Antonio, Texas, January, 1999.
- AWM Workshop, Research Talks by Recent Ph.D.'s,  
Joint Meetings, San Antonio, Texas, January, 1999.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
Joint Meetings, Baltimore, Maryland, January, 1998.
- AMS-MAA Session on Computations in Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
Joint Meetings, Seattle, Washington, August, 1996.
- Julia Robinson Celebration at MSRI, poster, funded participant,  
Berkeley, California, July, 1996.
- AMS Special Session on Commutative Algebra, invited talk,  
Joint Meetings, Orlando, Florida, January, 1996.

### Research Presentations at Other Institutions

- Algebraic Geometry seminar, Queen's University, Ontario, February, 2005
- Algebra seminar, University of Nebraska - Lincoln, January, 2005.
- Algebra seminar, Syracuse University, October, 2004.
- Algebra seminar, University of Kansas, June, 2003.
- Algebra seminar, University of Kansas, May, 2002.
- Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry seminar, University of Minnesota, April, 2000.
- Valley Geometry Seminar, invited talk, Five College Consortium, March, 1997.

## PRESENTATIONS (continued)

### Colloquia and Seminars for General or Undergraduate Audience

- Mathematics Seminar, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, October, 2006.
- Mathematics and Computer Science Seminar, Gustavus Adolphus College, November, 2005
- Mathematics and Computer Science Colloquium, Carleton College, April, 2000.
- Faculty Shoptalk, Gustavus Adolphus College, March, 2000.
- Mathematics and Computer Science Department Colloquium, Colby College, November, 1997.
- Mathematics and Statistics Department Colloquium, Swarthmore College, October, 1997.
- Bowdoin-Bates Mathematics Seminar, Bates College, March, 1997.

### Other Presentations

- Project NExT panel, Strategies for making and sustaining research collaborations as a faculty member in a small department, panelist, Joint Meetings, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 2007.
- MAA Session on Innovations in Teaching Abstract Algebra, contributed talk, Joint Meetings, San Antonio, Texas, January, 1999.
- Project NExT session on assessment, contributed talk, Mathfest, Toronto, Ontario, July, 1998.

### Outreach

- Workshop for high school math teachers, Sonia Kovalevsky Festival, Syracuse University, November, 2004.

## TEACHING

### Syracuse University

- Precalculus, Calculus I, II, & III (for engineers), Introduction of Abstract Mathematics, Business Calculus, Life Sciences Calculus I & II,
- First Course in Linear Algebra, Introduction to Ordinary Differential Equations
- Second Course in Linear Algebra, Introduction to Abstract Algebra

### Hobart & William Smith Colleges

- Calculus I, Discovering in Mathematics, Precalculus

### Gustavus Adolphus College

- Calculus I, Calculus II, Discrete Math for Computer Science, Introduction to Computer Science I Lab, Modern Algebra, Modern Algebra II, Problem Solving,
- Women in Science, Cryptanalysis, Mathematics Research Immersion, Mathematics of Phylogenetics

### Bowdoin College

- Calculus I, Calculus II, Introduction to Abstract Algebra

**INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

Marshall Scholarship Finalist mock interview

Dina Eldawy (2018)

ITA Language Assessment Committee, 2018.

Ph.D. Dissertation Committee, Syracuse University, Math Education

Krystal Barber (2016), Thembinkosi Mkhathshwa (2016), Victoria Wambua (2018)

WiSE Preparing Future Faculty, Syracuse University

Faculty reviewer of two Ph.D. students' portfolios, 2016.

Ad Hoc Hiring Committee

to fill non-tenure track Calculus Coordinator position, 2016.

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Refereed proposals for the National Science Foundation

Referee for Proceedings of the A.M.S and Journal of Algebra

Mentor, AWM Workshop for Women Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D.'s,

Joint Meetings, San Antonio, January 2006

Co-organizer, AWM Workshop for Women Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D.'s,

Joint Meetings, New Orleans, January 2007

Mentor, AWM Workshop for Women Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D.'s,

Joint Meetings, New Orleans, January 2008

Co-creator of <http://www.commalg.org>, a resource for commutative algebra