



Spring 2026 Meeting of MAA-NJ

Ramapo College of New Jersey

Saturday, March 28, 2026

Reflections by Dr. Sheila Tabanli*

The recent MAA-NJ meeting brought together faculty from across institutions for a rich exchange of ideas centered on AI in teaching and learning, innovative instructional practices, and key organizational updates.

AI in Teaching & Learning – Lunch Discussion

The lunch session, moderated by Dr. Sheila Tabanli and Kathy Turrisi, fostered a dynamic and candid conversation about the evolving role of AI in mathematics education. Faculty shared a range of current practices and perspectives:

- Tools such as Google Gemini are being used under institutional licenses to convert handwritten work into LaTeX and support students in creating study guides.
- Instructors are integrating textbooks with ChatGPT (PDF-based interaction) to enhance learning.
- Faculty discussed using AI to generate solutions and instructional materials.
- Participants raised broader questions about AI's role, comparing its emergence to the historical introduction of calculators—highlighting both uncertainty and opportunity.
- AI-supported tools are being incorporated into exam reviews alongside platforms like MyLab.

Several important themes emerged:

- The need to train students in responsible and ethical AI use, including potential practices such as submitting AI chat logs for transparency in learning.
- The importance of preparing students for workforce readiness, where AI literacy is increasingly essential.
- Concerns about hallucinations and inaccuracies in AI-generated content.
- A strong call for professional development (PD) opportunities, including hands-on training and certification pathways for faculty.

- AI's growing role in research, including literature review support using tools like Elicit and Gemini.

Overall, the discussion emphasized aligning AI use with learning outcomes, fostering responsible engagement, and continuing to study its impact through emerging research questions and qualitative insights.

Contributed Talks Session

The contributed session, also moderated by Dr. Tabanli, featured three engaging presentations:

- Dr. Grace Cook (Bloomfield College of Montclair State University) presented on using ChatGPT to efficiently build and maintain question banks for formative assessment in LMS platforms. Her work highlighted how AI can reduce faculty workload while enhancing frequent, low-stakes student practice.
 - Dr. Kara Teehan (Monmouth University) shared research on productive struggle in Calculus II, demonstrating how open-ended tasks can deepen student engagement and normalize struggle as a meaningful part of learning.
 - Dr. Sheila Tabanli (Rutgers University) presented “Retention Without Remediation”, showcasing outcomes from Math 125 and the RR2PG instructional framework, which integrates cognitive science and self-regulated learning strategies to reduce DFW rates in gateway mathematics courses without altering curricular rigor.
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Section Business Updates

- MAA-NJ members voted to discontinue Fall sectional meetings, with future efforts focusing on strengthening Spring programming.
 - A leadership transition was also confirmed:
 - Outgoing Section Chair: Jonathan Weisbrod
 - Incoming Section Chair: Ik Jae Lee
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