



Bios of 2023 RoboParade Judges

Competition Chair: Pam Sparks

May 12, 2023

Dr. Chris Cartwright is the Robofest Director and an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Lawrence Technological University. Dr. Cartwright received his PhD in Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences from the University of Iowa in 2003. His PhD thesis involved using parallel programming techniques with the Message Passing Interface (MPI) to solve computational geometry problems related to meshfree methods for solving Partial Differential Equations. He also holds a BA in Mathematics and a BA in Music from Kalamazoo College. He is interested in outreach to K-12 students to encourage them to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). He has been actively involved in Robofest, LTU's autonomous robotics competition, since 2010.

Dr. Paula Lauren received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from Oakland University in 2018 and has over 10 years of full-time industry experience in computing with roles ranging from being a computer programmer to a software engineering manager. Paula teaches foundational computer science courses covering programming in C and C++ as well as Text Mining and Analytics, a course she designed and developed. Paula's research interests include data mining, information extraction, natural language processing, and computer science education. She is an active peer journal paper reviewer and a professional member of IEEE and ACM.

Jennifer Minaudo is a Biology and Anatomy and Physiology Instructor at University Preparatory Science & Math High School in Detroit, Michigan. She earned her B.S. in the Biological Sciences and a minor in Italian Language from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Jennifer has traveled multiple times to South America with Oakland University to study alongside ecologists researching species' behaviors and population sizes in Ecuador and assisted doctors, such as dentists, gynecologists, pediatricians, etc. treating homeless patients in Peru. She was just nominated by her peers for the State of Michigan's Outstanding Biology Teacher Award 2023 awarded by The National Association of Biology Teachers.

Lalita Mishra is an admissions representative for the National Heritage Academies, Canton Charter Academy & South Pointe Scholars. Lalita is a multi-year Robofest Site Host and Volunteer that actively promotes S.T.E.A.M education at the grass roots level.

<https://www.nhaschools.com/schools/canton-charter-academy/en/blog/Canton-Charter-Takes-First-Place-in-Olympiad>

Pam Sparks is a Robofest staff member and coach. She has been a Michigan educator for over 30 years. She attended Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan where she received her B.A. in Biology and M.A.T. Also having a DX in the group sciences made her the perfect candidate for bringing S.T.E.A.M. projects to her classroom and her award winning Science, Engineering and Robotics Programs. In 2013, The National Association of Biology Teachers recognized her excellence when she was awarded the State of Michigan's Outstanding Biology Teacher Award. Mrs. Sparks is passionate about Michigan Great Lakes literacy and conservation. In addition to her work with Robofest, she is building a Zoology S.T.E.A.M. Pathway at University Prep High School in Detroit, Michigan.