



SEMINAR

Beyond the Classroom: The Adventure of Undergraduate Research

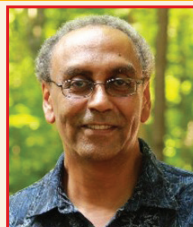
Date: Tuesday, 22 September 2026

Time: 17:00

Venue: Online

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89119348000?pwd=aNeVcN4QC27ydneXmajaNMzQcNGJ1t.1>

Meeting ID: 891 1934 8000 | **Passcode:** 218097



Akilu Zeleke

Michigan State University

ABOUT THE SEMINAR

Undergraduate research empowers students to ask bold questions, explore new ideas, and see themselves as contributors to knowledge. In this talk, we'll highlight the impact of research in the mathematical sciences on students' academic growth, career readiness, and confidence.

We'll share strategies to foster curiosity, build strong mentoring relationships, and expand access to research - leaving the audience inspired to champion undergraduate research in their communities.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Dr. Akilu Zeleke is a Professor at Michigan State University (MSU), holding a joint appointment with Lyman Briggs College, a residential college focused on the sciences, and the Department of Statistics and Probability. He joined MSU in 2005 after serving as a faculty member at Alma College from 1998 to 2004.

Dr. Zeleke earned his Diplom Mathematik (equivalent to a master's degree in mathematics) from the University of Leipzig in Germany and

completed his Ph.D. in Mathematics at Temple University in the United States in 1997.

His research encompasses four primary areas: probability and stochastic processes, discrete mathematics and combinatorics, statistics education, and undergraduate research. In 2010, he founded the Summer Undergraduate Research Institute in Experimental Mathematics (SURIEM) and has since served as its director and co-director. Through SURIEM, he has secured federal funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Security Agency (NSA) to support undergraduate research opportunities.

Deeply committed to mentoring undergraduate students, Dr. Zeleke integrates them actively into his research projects. In recent years, he has expanded his academic impact internationally through his work as a Carnegie African Diaspora Fellow and as a COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) Fellow, engaging in global research, teaching, and capacity-building initiatives.

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