



# EPADEL

[maa.org/epadel](http://maa.org/epadel)



**Spring Meeting**  
April 16, 2005  
Lafayette College

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Spring really is coming, and with it, the promise of another exciting EPADEL meeting. We're looking forward to getting together at Lafayette College on April 16. Besides an outstanding slate of hour talks, organized by our section Vice President John Meier, and presentations by students, and book displays and sales, the meeting will feature the inaugural, invitational EPADEL Math Bowl, in which teams of undergraduates will compete for fabulous (well, nontrivial) prizes. So come on out for a nice respite after getting your income taxes done, and please encourage colleagues, undergraduates and graduate students to attend.

Some of the hour talks at this meeting will have a distinctly topological theme, but in different directions: the topology and geometry of reconfiguration (Robert Ghrist), and algebraic topology (Tara Brendle). Ed Burger of Williams College will speak on "Conjugate Coupling", and David Bressoud of Macalester College will talk about the new Curriculum Guide from the MAA Committee on Undergraduate Programs in Mathematics. We will also be presenting EPADEL's James Crawford Award for Distinguished Teaching to its 2005 winner.

Visit [www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org) and check out some of the opportunities to participate in the national organization, and to learn about goings-on, particularly about this summer's MathFest in Albuquerque from August 4-6.

See you April at Lafayette!

# EPADEL GOVERNOR'S REPORT

January 2005

The MAA Board of Governors met on January 4, 2005 in downtown Atlanta at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. The Associated Secretary reported that the 2004 Providence Mathfest was attended by over one thousand mathematicians, the most in the past eight years. The MAA Budget Committee recommended, and the Board of Governor's approved, a 2006 dues schedule with an increase of \$2 - \$7 in the various individual membership categories. The Budget Committee would like input on "principles for a restructured dues system for the future that not only would be more fair but would also recover a larger fraction of our costs." Please share any input you have on this matter with me through e-mail or at the spring meeting.

The Section Governors are regularly solicited for names of individuals who would like to serve on MAA committees. If you are interested in this important type of service to the national association, also let me know this by e-mail or in person at the spring meeting.

Section membership should also take advantage of MAA programs. PREP workshops, providing professional development opportunities, have been funded for five more years, and Project ACCESS, a "Project NExT" type program for two-year college faculty is now underway. Learn about these and more in the Programs area of MAA Online.

Everyone should mark their calendars to attend the 2005 MathFest August 4 through 6. The MAA has made great strides to increase the number of mathematics talks at the meeting to balance the typically excellent programming in teaching-related issues. One particular program note is that EPADEL's own Annalisa Crannell will give the MAA Student Lecture in Albuquerque.

## Dates of national meetings

### Joint Math Meetings

Atlanta (1/5 - 1/8/05)

San Antonio (1/12 - 1/15/06)

New Orleans (1/4 - 1/7/07)

San Diego (1/6 - 1/9/08)

Washington (1/7 - 1/10/09)

San Francisco (1/6 - 1/9/10)

New Orleans (1/5 - 1/8/11)

### MathFests

Albuquerque (8/4 - 8/6/05)

Knoxville (8/4 - 8/6/05)

San Jose (8/3 - 8/5/07)

Madison (7/31 - 8/2/08)

## **JAMES P. CRAWFORD EPADEL TEACHING AWARD**

### **Plan now to nominate a colleague for next year's James P. Crawford EPADEL Teaching Award.**

There are many excellent teachers of mathematics, but to be recognized by the MAA, they must be nominated by their colleagues.

Please consider nominating a colleague, a respected former teacher, or an inspiring speaker for the 2006 James P. Crawford EPADEL Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching. The nomination process is two-tiered. To initiate a nomination, the nominator must submit a one-page nomination form by **December 1, 2005**. The Selection Committee will screen the nominations, and around January 1 will invite some of the nominators to submit full nomination packets. The full packets should be completed with the help of the nominee's department chair, and submitted by February 1, 2006.

Guidelines for nomination and the latest nomination form are available for download at [www.math.upenn.edu/~epadel/crawford\\_instructions.htm](http://www.math.upenn.edu/~epadel/crawford_instructions.htm) or from

Barbara Bendl

University of the Sciences in Philadelphia

600 South 43rd Street

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Telephone: 215-895-1120,

email: [b.bendl@usip.edu](mailto:b.bendl@usip.edu).

### **Congratulations to Marvin Brubaker, 2004 James P. Crawford EPADEL Teaching Award winner.**

# PROJECT NExT-EPADEL

## NExT Fellows in EPADEL

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching), a MAA program for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences who are interested in improving the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics, has accepted another enthusiastic group of fellows for the 2004-2005 year. The fellows attend special programs at two summer MathFests and at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in January. We welcome two new NExT fellows to EPADEL:

- Kathi Crow, Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA
- Trisha Moller, DeSales University, Center Valley, PA

## Project NExT-EPADEL

In Spring 2002 EPADEL launched a regional version of the National Project NExT program, Project NExT-EPADEL. Faculty members in our section who are within their first three years of teaching full time at a university, four-year or two-year college are invited to apply to become Project NExT-EPADEL Fellows. In addition, Ph.D. students in our section who are within one year of completing their degree are invited to apply.

The next meeting for the NExT-EPADEL Fellows will be immediately following the spring section meeting at Lafayette. We will begin after the social hour that follows the meeting and continue through dinner. The workshop is open to all section and national NExT fellows, and anyone else interested in this year's topic. Everyone is invited to stay for dinner, which will be provided free for the new NExT-EPADEL Section Fellows.

At the workshop, participants will discuss topics of special relevance to beginning faculty. NExT-EPADEL Fellows will remain in contact with one another via an electronic mailing list. The focus of this year's workshop will be on extra-curriculum activities for Mathematics Majors.

For more information please see the NExT-EPADEL web page, [www.ship.edu/~deensl/NExT-EPADEL/](http://www.ship.edu/~deensl/NExT-EPADEL/)

All other inquires can be directed to either Lisa Marano, [lmарano@wcupa.edu](mailto:lmарano@wcupa.edu), or Kate McGivney, [kmgmgi@ship.edu](mailto:kmgmgi@ship.edu).

## ATTENTION GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The EPADEL Section's Spring Meeting will be held at Lafayette College on April 16. A detailed program can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Become involved with the regional mathematics community and attend this meeting! The registration fee for students is only \$5.

In addition to the invited talks, there will be a **Math Bowl** organized by Lafayette College students. There will also be two student contributed papers sessions in which graduate and undergraduate students have an opportunity to give a mathematics talk.

If you are interested in participating as a speaker, please check the Section's webpage at [www.maa.org/epadel](http://www.maa.org/epadel). The deadline to submit an application to give a talk is **April 1**.

### 2005 Student Mathematical Paper Competition

If you are an undergraduate writing a mathematics paper this year, consider submitting it for a prize: The EPADEL Section's Student Mathematical Papers Prize Competition deadline is May 15, 2005 and the nationally sponsored Brennie and Frank Morgan Prize paper contest deadline is June 30, 2005.

Submissions for EPADEL's paper contest should be sent to:

Samir Ouzomgi  
Department of Mathematics  
Penn State-Abington College  
Abington, PA 19001  
(215) 881-7300  
FAX: (215) 881-7333  
email: [ouzmgi@psu.edu](mailto:ouzmgi@psu.edu)

The papers will be judged over the summer. The winning author(s) will be recognized at the MAA EPADEL Section's Fall 2005 meeting, and will receive a prize of \$200.

### The National Meeting

In early August, Mathfest (the MAA national meeting) will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mathfest includes many activities of interest to students. For information on Mathfest check MAA Online at [www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org).

### MAA Student Chapters

Do you have an MAA Student Chapter on your campus? If you don't, consider starting one. You'll need a minimum of five students and a faculty advisor. For information contact Alicia Sevilla, EPADEL Student Chapters Coordinator, at [sevilla@moravian.edu](mailto:sevilla@moravian.edu).

### Careers Conference

The biannual EPADEL's Student Mathematics Careers Conference is scheduled for October 29, 2005 at Moravian College. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. You do not want to miss it!

# SCHEDULE FOR THE SPRING MEETING AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

**April 16, 2005**

**Morning**

<b>Registration</b> Pfenning Alumni Center Lobby	8:30-10:00
<b>Welcoming Remarks</b> 224 Oechsle Hall	9:00-9:10
<b><i>Math Bowl</i></b> <b>An Undergraduate, Team Competition</b> 224 Oechsle Hall	9:10-10:00
<b>Coffee, Snacks break &amp; MAA book display</b> Oechsle Hall Lobby	10:00-10:30
<b><i>The topology and geometry of reconfiguration</i></b> Robert Ghrist, University of Illinois 224 Oechsle Hall	10:30-11:30
<b>Student Papers</b> For information on presenting a paper look in the student section of this newsletter 211 & 223 Oechsle Hall	10:30-11:30
<b><i>Conjugate Coupling</i></b> Edward Burger, Williams College 224 Oechsle Hall	11:30-12:30
<b>Business Meeting and the awarding of the Crawford Prize</b> 224 Oechsle Hall	12:30-12:45
<b>Lunch</b> Wilson Room of the Pfenning Alumni Center	12:45-2:00

## Afternoon

<i>Mapping class groups of surfaces: where algebra meets topology</i> Tara Brendle, Cornell University 224 Oechsle Hall	2:00-3:00
<b>Student Papers</b> 211 and 223 Oechsle Hall	2:00-3:00
<i>The CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004</i> David Bressoud, Macalester College 224 Oechsle Hall	3:00-4:00
<b>Game Hour</b> (For students) 223 Oechsle Hall	3:00-4:00
Social Time	4:00-4:30

## Math Bowl

Our Spring Conference opens with an activity that has become legendary in the Lafayette Mathematics department. We will have a contest, modeled on “College Bowl,” between various local teams of undergraduates. Gary Gordon and Liz McMahon will be the hosts and official (completely unbiased) judges.

## Game Hour

At the end of the conference Lafayette College’s Math Club will host a game hour, where all interested undergraduates are invited to come and enjoy a variety of games (bridge, chess, etc.).

## MAA   SPRING   MEETING   BOOK   SALE

Assortment of Recent Titles for Examination

SPECIAL DISCOUNT PRICES

Purchase Display Books & Enjoy Them Immediately

Order Books Postage-Free

!! Get great books and benefit EPADEL simultaneously !!

## ABSTRACTS OF INVITED TALKS

- *The topology and geometry of reconfiguration*, Robert Ghrist, University of Illinois
- *Conjugate Coupling: The romantic adventures of the quintessential quadratic*, Edward Burger, Williams College
- *Mapping class groups of surfaces: where algebra meets topology*, Tara Brendle, Cornell University
- *The CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004*, David Bressoud, Macalester College

### *The topology and geometry of reconfiguration*

**Robert Ghrist, University of Illinois**

**Abstract:** There are numerous contexts in which ‘states’ need to be reconfigured – in robotics, manufacturing, protein folding, microfluidics, and group theory, among others. I’ll demonstrate a geometric approach to reconfiguration which leads to very beautiful ideas in contemporary geometry and topology. Cube complexes and curvature will play a starring role in determining how to reconfigure a system optimally.

**Biography:** Robert Ghrist was born in Euclid, Ohio, presaging a disposition for geometry. Despite beginning professional life as a mechanical engineer (BSME, Univ. Toledo), the Fates prevailed and Ghrist became a mathematician (MS, Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics, Cornell Univ.). As an associate professor of Mathematics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Ghrist applies geometry and topology to problems in applied mathematics, engineering, and computer science. He lives in Urbana with his wife and three young children.

### *Conjugate Coupling: The romantic adventures of the quintessential quadratic*

**Edward Burger, Williams College**

**Abstract:** Here we will come to understand the “personality” of real numbers. Along the way we will encounter some beautiful ideas from number theory and develop an appreciation for diophantine approximation. Results of both the ancient and recent variety will be offered along with some surprising reality-TV style twists

**Biography:** Edward Burger is Chair and Professor of Mathematics at Williams College. His research interests are in number theory, and he is the author of over 30 research articles and three books - “The Heart of Mathematics: An invitation to effective thinking”, “Exploring the Number Jungle: A journey into diophantine analysis”, and “Making Transcendence Transparent: An intuitive approach to classical transcendental number theory.” Burger was awarded the 2000 Northeastern Section of the MAA Award for Distinguished Teaching and 2001 MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo National Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. In 2002-2003 he was the Ulam Visiting Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he was awarded the 2003 Residence Life Teaching Award. Burger is an associate editor of the American Mathematical Monthly. The MAA named him the 2001-2003 Polya Lecturer. In 2004 he was awarded Mathematical Association of America’s Chauvenet Prize.



## *Mapping class groups of surfaces: where algebra meets topology*

**Tara Brendle, Cornell University**

**Abstract:** Mathematicians have known the classification of surfaces for over a century, so what could possibly be left to say about them? In mathematics, as soon as we have an object of interest, we also need to understand the maps of that object to itself which preserve the essential properties of that object. In topology, these “nice” maps are called homeomorphisms. The mapping class group of a surface is the group of homeomorphisms of a surface to itself (up to a certain equivalence relation). The mapping class group arises in many fields of mathematics, including complex analysis, algebraic geometry, geometric group theory, low-dimensional topology, and even in the proof of Fermat’s Last Theorem.

Despite its fundamental nature, the algebraic structure of mapping class groups is not yet fully understood. In this talk, we will discuss various known generating sets for mapping class groups which possess very different properties: some arise from the symmetry of surfaces, whereas others correspond to “twisting” a surface, much the way one twists a Rubik’s cube. Thus, perhaps counter to our intuition, we will see that symmetries can be understood as resulting from a series of twists, and vice-versa.

**Biography:** Tara Brendle grew up in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania. She received her B.S. from Haverford College, and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. She is in her 3rd year of a VIGRE postdoc at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. Her research interests include geometric group theory and low-dimensional topology.

Tara has been involved in the EDGE Program (Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education), a summer program for women at the beginning stages of a graduate program in mathematics, first as a graduate student mentor and later as a short course instructor and visiting speaker. She will also be teaching an undergraduate course in geometric group theory at this year’s Program for Women in Mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton.

## *The CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004*

**David Bressoud, Macalester College**

**Abstract:** The MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) updates its recommendation for the undergraduate curriculum in mathematics roughly every ten years. The most recent and the most extensive set of recommendations ever produced by the CUPM was published in February, 2004. This is the first CUPM curriculum guide to look at all mathematics courses and the needs of all students taking mathematics rather than dealing solely with the preparation of majors in the mathematical sciences. This session will explain what can be found in this guide, suggest how it can be used, raise some issues about college calculus, and listen to your concerns about the undergraduate curriculum.

**BioGraphy:** David Bressoud is DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He grew up in Bethlehem (graduating from Liberty in 1968), went to Swarthmore, spent two years in the Peace Corps (Antigua, West Indies), then went to Temple University where he studied with Emil Grosswald. He taught at Penn State from 1977 until 1994 when he emigrated to Minnesota. He has received the MAA Distinguished Teaching Award and the MAA’s Beckenbach Book Award for “Proofs and Confirmations: The Story of the Alternating

Sign Matrix Conjecture” and has been an MAA Polya Lecturer. He currently serves as Chair of the College Board’s AP Calculus Development Committee, Chair of the MAA’s Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics, and as Director of Macalester’s FIPSE- and NSF-sponsored program “Quantitative Methods for Public Policy.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Viewpoints Workshop:** Viewpoints is a workshop on math and art to be run June 12-17, 2005 at Franklin & Marshall College. For more information visit their web site ([my-page.iu.edu/mathart/viewpoints/](http://my-page.iu.edu/mathart/viewpoints/)).
- **Careers conference:** The biannual EPADEL Student Mathematics Careers Conference is scheduled for October 29, 2005 at Moravian College.

## Other mathematics meetings in the region

- The spring 2005 MAA-NJ meeting will be held at Middlesex County College on April 2, 2005, coinciding with the 2nd Annual Garden State Undergraduate Math Conference. Visit their website ([www.maa.org/newjersey](http://www.maa.org/newjersey)) for more information.
- The joint PSMATYC/WVMATYC meeting will be held tentatively on April 8-9, 2005 at the Boyce Campus, Community College of Allegheny County, Monroeville, Pa. Visit their website ([www.hacc.edu/psmatyc/](http://www.hacc.edu/psmatyc/)) for more information.

**EPaDel Spring Meeting – April 16, 2005**  
Lafayette College  
REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First time attendee?  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Yes ☐ No  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

Status:    ☐ Student, Undergraduate    ☐ Student, Graduate    ☐ Emeritus  
             ☐ High School Instructor    ☐ 2-year College Faculty    ☐ 4-year Faculty

Registration Fee:    \$18.00    (\$20.00 on-site)  
                             \$5.00    (students, emeriti, and unemployed)  
                             \$0.00    (full-time faculty who are  
   first time attendees) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch\*:    \$10.00    ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total:    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Lunch reservations are limited to the first 100 registrants.

Send your registration forms to:

Pat Pappus  
EPaDel Spring Meeting Registration  
Department of Mathematics  
Lafayette College  
Easton, PA 18042

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE APRIL 1, 2005**

# DIRECTIONS

From the west:

Take route 22 east to the 4th street exit, Easton (marked for Lafayette College). At foot of ramp, turn left; left again at first stop light (3rd St., then College Avenue). At the top of the hill, take first left (McCartney St.). Left again at first stop sign (High St.). Go 1 1/2 blocks, take second right onto parking deck, located behind Markle Hall. Registration is in Pfenning Alumni Center, building 51 on the campus map.

From the east:

Take 22 west to Delaware River toll bridge. After exiting toll bridge, take second exit ramp, marked for Easton and Lafayette College. At the end of the ramp, turn right onto Third Street which becomes College Ave. At top of hill, take first left (McCartney St.) to first stop sign (High St.). Turn left. Go 1 1/2 blocks, take second right onto parking deck, located behind Markle Hall. Registration is in Pfenning Alumni Center, building 51 on the campus map.

## Numeric Key: Buildings

To tour Lafayette's buildings, park in the Visitor's Parking lot behind Markle Hall. Begin your tour in front of Markle Hall. To tour Lafayette's trees, see pages 3 and 4 of this document.

- 1** Markle Hall
- 2** Parking Deck
- 3** Acopian Engineering Center
- 4** Plant Operations
- 5** Watson Hall
- 6** Hugel Science Center
- 7** Kunkel Hall
- 8** Farber Hall
- 9** Ramer Hall
- 10** Phi Kappa Psi fraternity
- 11** Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity
- 12** Lerch House (Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority)
- 13** P T Farinon House
- 14** Conway House
- 15** Sullivan House (Alpha Gamma Delta sorority)
- 16** Alpha Phi sorority
- 17** Pi Beta Phi sorority
- 18** Two West
- 19** Chi Phi fraternity

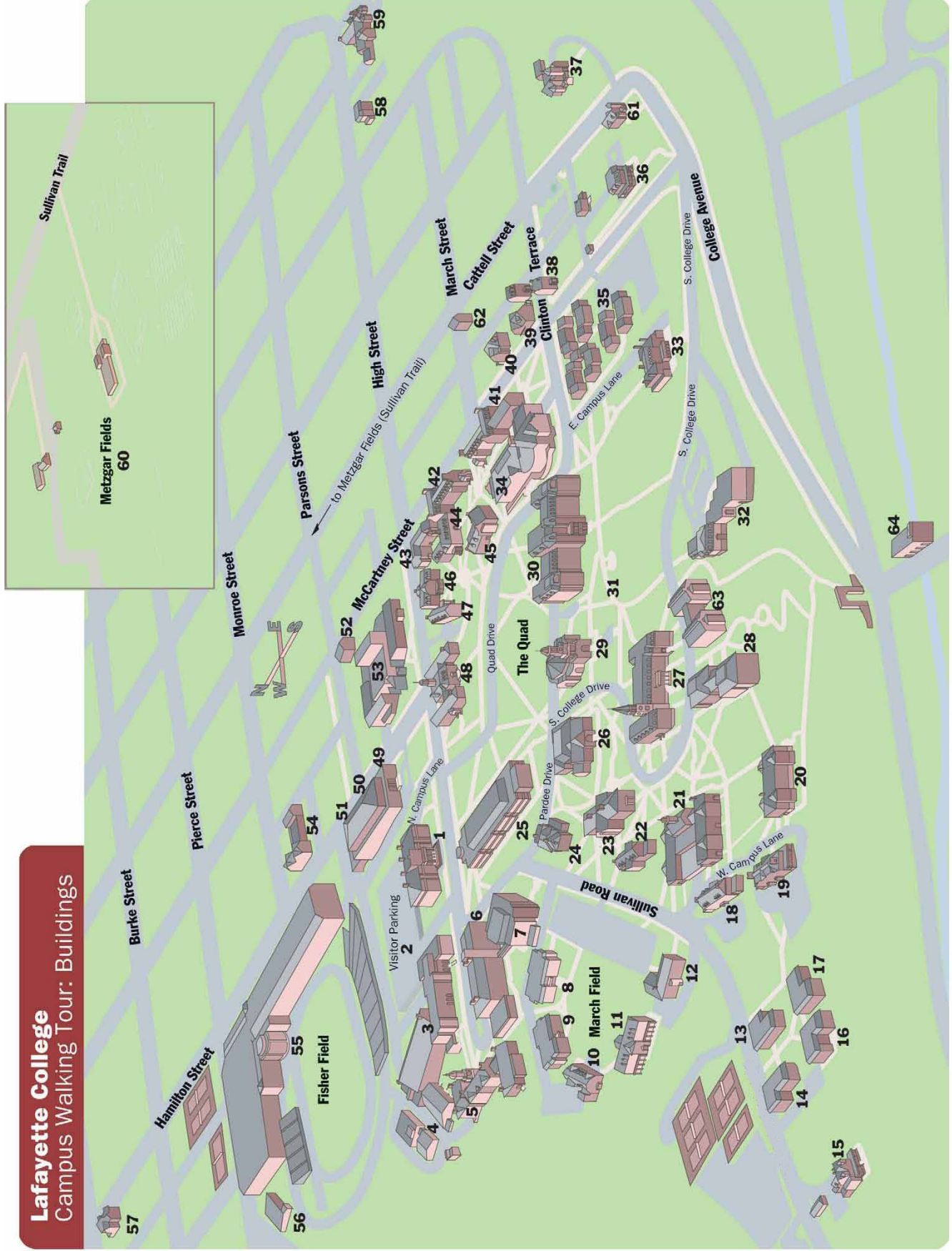
- 20** Easton Hall
- 21** Marquis Hall
- 22** 718 Sullivan Trail
- 23** Kirby Hall of Civil Rights
- 24** Delta Upsilon fraternity (Phi Delta Theta House)
- 25** Skillman Library
- 26** Van Wickle Hall
- 27** South College-Jesser Hall
- 28** Ruef Hall
- 29** Colton Chapel
- 30** Pardee Hall
- 31** Société d'Honneur Plaza
- 32** William E. Simon Center for Economics and Business Administration
- 33** Zeta Psi fraternity
- 34** William B. Farinon College Center
- 35** Watson Courts
- 36** President's House
- 37** Fretz House
- 38** Hillel House
- 39** David A. Portlock Black Cultural Center
- 40** Newman House
- 41** McKeen Hall
- 42** Gates Hall
- 43** Bailey Health Center
- 44** Soles Hall

- 45** Hogg Hall
- 46** Phi Gamma Delta fraternity
- 47** Kappa Delta Rho fraternity
- 48** Kirby House
- 49** Alumni Memorial Plaza
- 50** Oechsle Hall
- 51** Pfenning Alumni Center
- 52** Lehigh Valley Child Care Center
- 53** Morris R. Williams Center for the Arts
- 54** Printmaking Studios
- 55** Allan P. Kirby Sports Center
- 56** Maroon Club Strength Center
- 57** Hamilton House (Delta Gamma sorority)
- 58** Reeder House (Theta Chi fraternity)
- 59** McKelvy House
- 60** McCracken Field House
- 61** 511 College Avenue
- 62** Military Science
- 63** Keefe Hall
- 64** Williams Visual Arts Building

03/02

# Lafayette College

## Campus Walking Tour: Buildings



# EPADEL OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

## Officers

<b>President</b> Dennis DeTurck (2004) Department of Mathematics University of Pennsylvania 209 S. 33rd St. Philadelphia, PA 19104-6395 (215) 573-9036 deturck@math.upenn.edu	<b>Vice President</b> John Meier (2004) Department of Mathematics Lafayette College Easton, PA 18042 (610) 330-5570 meierj@lafayette.edu	<b>Secretary-Treasurer</b> Barbara Bendl University of the Sciences in Philadelphia 600 South 43rd Street Philadelphia, PA 19104-4495 (215) 895-1112 email: b.reilly@usip.edu
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## Committee Members at Large

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	<b>Speaker and Consultant Program</b> John Polhill Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Bloomsburg University Bloomsburg, PA 17815 email: jpolhill@bloomu.edu	

## Student Contributed Talks Cover Page

This cover page **MUST** be included as part of the application for giving a student contributed talk. Responses to these questions will not affect eligibility for acceptance of a presentation. All personal information will be kept confidential.

Please type or print clearly.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Institutional Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Class Year (check one)    ☐ HS    ☐ FR    ☐ SO    ☐ JR    ☐ SR    ☐ Grad Student

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Talk (be concise) \_\_\_\_\_

Category (check one)            ☐ Expository    ☐ Mathematical Activity    ☐ Research

Have you given this talk elsewhere? If so please specify where and when.

A blackboard, overhead projector for transparencies, and computer/overhead system for PowerPoint will be provided. Will your presentation require any other equipment? If so, please specify.

Do you have a preference for the scheduling of your talk? (Requests will be considered, but cannot be guaranteed.)

☐ Morning            ☐ Afternoon            ☐ Does not matter

Send this **cover page** and a **one page outline** of your talk to

Eric Egge  
Department of Mathematics  
Gettysburg College  
300 N. Washington Street  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

eegge@gettysburg.edu

**Deadline: Applications must be received by Friday, April 1, 2005.**

Date Received:

For EPADEL Use

☐ Accepted            ☐ Rejected (give reason)