



Ohio Focus

The MAA Ohio Section Newsletter

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Spring 2011

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Spring Meeting at Youngstown State University March 25-26, 2011



Kilcawley Center: Meeting Location

The Spring Meeting of the Ohio Section MAA will be held on March 25-26, 2011, at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio. The meeting will start at noon on Friday, with the first invited lecture starting at 1:45 pm in the Kilcawley Center, and will conclude on Saturday at 1:00 pm. Major addresses will be given by **Jennifer Quinn** (University of Washington-Tacoma), **Gordon Swain** (Ashland University), **Doug Ensley** (Shippensburg University), and **Don Hunt** (Ohio Northern University). Other meeting participants are encouraged to submit talks for the contributed paper sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Graduate and undergraduate students in mathematics, mathematics education, or related fields are encouraged to attend.

Early Meetings of the Ohio Section

Centennial Note #3

The First Annual Meeting of the Ohio Section was held April 21-22, 1916, at The Ohio State University in connection with meetings of four other academic societies. It was attended by 32 men and 8 women, representing 22 colleges and universities. A number of features that are standard at today's section meetings were already a part of that first meeting. The program included a banquet, an invited address, a business meeting, a retiring

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Meeting Registration

Online registration is preferred. Visit the Section web site at www.maa.org/Ohio on or after February 15, 2011, for one-stop registration, banquet reservation, and abstract submission. The deadline for meeting pre-registration and banquet reservations is **March 18**. Abstracts for contributed papers must be submitted by **March 11**.

On-site meeting registration is available, but last-minute banquet tickets cannot be guaranteed. Early registration helps those making the meeting arrangements and is

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Section Governor's Report

I'm just recently back from the Joint Meetings in New Orleans, and it was a very successful meeting. There were over 2000 papers presented, and a new record was set with over 6000 registered participants. I was fortunate in that none of my flights were cancelled or delayed by weather, and I managed to return to Ohio in time to teach the first day of classes.

The MAA is in very sound financial condition, but we have not been immune to the effects of the economic slump. As a result, the national MAA is working to increase revenues and cut costs. In this period of belt-tightening, each of us can help by encouraging other people to join the MAA, by using MAA textbooks when we can, and by making a financial contribution to the MAA if possible. I don't want anyone to overreact. The MAA is certainly not in any kind of financial trouble. This is simply a time when it is more important than usual that each of us try to help where we can.

The big news about memberships is that the MAA is going to implement a steeply discounted membership for high school teachers. The belief is that there are many teachers who could benefit from an MAA membership, but who are discouraged from joining because of the cost. If you know any teachers who might be interested, be sure to let them know to be on the lookout for information (on the MAA website?) about this opportunity to join the MAA at a real savings.

The newly instituted electronic memberships continue to be popular. There is ongoing discussion about how memberships and subscriptions might be bundled. Be sure to check all of your options when it comes time to renew your membership, because I expect that there will be a fair amount of change in this area over the next few years.

The MAA is asking all of us to take a serious look at using MAA Textbooks for our courses. The list of texts is somewhat limited, but it continues to grow. One of the goals of this program is to help keep the cost of mathematics textbooks down. If you can find a textbook that will meet your needs, you are likely to save your students enough to buy several pizzas.

The national MAA is currently searching for a new Executive Director and a new Treasurer. Both positions



start in January, 2012. The current Executive Director, Tina Straley, will retire at the end of this year. The current Treasurer, John Kenelly, is completing his second five-year term this year. Applications for the Executive Director position are due by April 1, and applications for the Treasurer position are due by April 15. More information can be found at the MAA website, www.maa.org (scroll down to see "Position Announcement" on the left side of the page).

Other items discussed at the Board of Governors meeting included:

(1) Journals and other publications are expected to undergo significant changes in the next decade around issues such as format, delivery mode, availability, and frequency. There are even thoughts that some online publications might be updated "continuously" rather than having distinct "volumes".

(2) The Special Interest Groups (SIGMAAs) are being reviewed as part of the ongoing strategic planning process. If you have thoughts and/or concerns about the structure and operation of the SIGMAAs, now is a good time to raise the issue to someone at the national level.

(3) The MAA is eager to have more proposals for online PREP workshops. If you have an idea, now would be a good time to pursue it.

I'll close by reminding us all that we are fortunate to be members of one of the stronger sections in the MAA. We need to continue to work to keep our section vital and to lend support to national activities as well. The first step, of course, is to find ways to encourage our colleagues (especially our younger colleagues) to join the MAA and participate in section activities. Bring a friend to a meeting! The next step is to volunteer your time to serve on a section or a national committee.

MathFest is in Lexington, Kentucky, next summer and the Joint Meetings will be in Boston in January, 2012. I hope to see you at one of those meetings. Remember, Lexington is just a short drive from Ohio.

*Al Stickney
Wittenberg University
Section Governor*

President's Message



Hello All, it's almost spring! I hope winter has treated you well.

I ended last fall's President's Message by saying 'I hope to see you at the fall meeting at Ursuline, October 22-23.' As you know that didn't happen. I fell prey to a flu bug the week of the meeting and was not up to attending. From everything I've heard the meeting was excellent. Many thanks to Michelle Wiggins and her crew of volunteers at Ursuline for such a good job! The spring meeting at Youngstown State promises to be equally impressive. Phil Blau and the program committee have put together another great lineup of invited speakers including Doug Ensley from Shippensburg University, Jennifer Quinn of the University of Washington-Tacoma, and our own Gordon Swain from Ashland University. And in keeping with tradition, I will deliver the retiring president's address. Tom Wakefield has been busy for a year working on the local arrangements. If you haven't already done so, check out the YSU Section Meeting webpage [see page 11], Tom has set a new standard for excellence with many improvements to the layout of the page.

Last year I had the sad duty of

informing you of the loss of long time Section member Leo Schneider. This time around I have happier news to share. Among his many accomplishments, Leo is perhaps best remembered for his love of problem solving and his involvement with student competitions. Matt Menzel and the members of the Committee on Student Members (CONSTUM) have come up with a very appropriate way of honoring Leo's memory. Rather than steal their thunder, I'll direct you to the discussion of Student Activities at the Spring Meeting elsewhere in this issue [page 5]. There you'll learn more about Leo and see our plans for honoring him.

Two other items have been on the minds of Section officers and committee members. The first involves the Committee on Section Activities (CONSACT) and the second concerns legislative actions by the states that have a direct bearing on our members.

Regarding CONSACT and its future role in the Section, thanks to a lot of hard work on the part of the committee members and much input from YOU at the fall meeting, we have a new direction for CONSACT. Beginning next fall, and each fall meeting thereafter, CONSACT will produce a Special Topics Workshop and a related paper session. The workshop will be held in lieu of the summer short course. A number of ideas for special topics have already been discussed.

As to actions on the part of state legislators which affect us and the work we do, there is a particular item of current interest we should become familiar with. The Common

Core Math Standards have been adopted by over 2/3 of the states (including Ohio). At a very minimum this legislation affects our K-12 teacher training programs. The Committee on Teacher Licensure (CONTEAL) monitors issues of this type and has been looking into the Common Core Math Standards. A report to the Section will follow. Interested members can find more information in David Bressoud's October *Launchings* at http://www.maa.org/columns/launchings/launchings_10_10.html.

Finally, I remind you of something you already know. The Ohio Section is a really super organization filled with wonderful, dedicated people who work hard to

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OHIO FOCUS

The newsletter of the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America first appeared in 1973 and is published twice yearly, in time to reach members before the fall and spring meetings. Newsletters are published online at www.maa.org/Ohio. Notification postcards are sent using labels provided by the MAA.

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The deadline for the next newsletter is **August 31, 2011**. E-mail copy is preferred. Early submission is appreciated. Please send copy to the editor (see above), and also to the Section Webmaster, Darren Wick (dwick@ashland.edu), for posting on the web.

Call for Contributed Papers

Fifteen-minute presentations on any topic of general interest in mathematics or related areas are encouraged for the Contributed Paper Sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the spring Ohio Section meeting. Reports on projects, research announcements, or anything you believe would be of interest to those in attendance are welcome. Undergraduate and graduate students in mathematics or mathematics education are strongly encouraged to submit talks.

Online submission with your meeting registration is strongly preferred, but if necessary, you may submit your title and abstract to the chair of the Program Committee, Phil Blau, by e-mail at pblau@shawnee.edu, or by U.S. mail at Department of Mathematical Sciences, Shawnee State University, 940 Second St., Portsmouth, OH 45684. Abstracts should be between 25 and 75 words in length and should employ proper

English grammar and spelling. Please use only plain text in your title and abstract as the abstract submittal system cannot process TeX or other graphics code.

Each presentation room will have a whiteboard or chalkboard, computer projector, and laptop connections. Presenters can either plug their laptops into the overhead projection system or plug a flash drive into the resident computer. If internet access or an overhead projector is needed, please mark the appropriate box when submitting your abstract online. Speakers with specific questions about technology availability should contact Tom Wakefield, at tpwakefield@ysu.edu.

Due to time and space restrictions, we may not be able to accommodate all talks. Submit abstracts online at the Section web page: **www.maa.org/Ohio**, by **Friday, March 11.**

About Youngstown State University

Youngstown State University is an urban research university located in Youngstown, Ohio. The university's origins trace back to 1908, when the local branch of the YMCA established a school of law within the Youngstown Association School. In 1921, the school became known as the Youngstown Institute of Technology and offered its first evening courses. In 1928, a year after establishing the College of Arts and Sciences, the institute once again changed its name to Youngstown College. In 1955, Youngstown College was renamed as Youngstown University, an indication of the school's broadening curriculum. On September 1, 1967, after becoming a public institution, Youngstown University became officially known as Youngstown State University.

YSU lies on a 140-acre campus just north of downtown Youngstown. Most buildings on campus have been built within the last half-

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Ohio NExT Workshop

Ohio Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a program for new faculty members. Its goal is to help newer faculty to network with colleagues, to share ideas and experiences that promote professional growth, and to encourage faculty to become involved in the Ohio Section.

Thursday evening, March 24th, the night preceding the Ohio Section Spring Meeting, members of Ohio Project NExT will gather for a banquet beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Presidents' Suite in the Kilcawley Center on the campus of Youngstown State University. This is a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. After the banquet, the NExTers will spend an hour or so discussing a topic related to the profession.

On Friday morning, March 25th, the Ohio NExT program will continue on the YSU campus. The program will feature Doug Ensley of Shippensburg University leading a workshop on technology in teaching mathematics, Jennifer Quinn of the University of Washington leading a workshop entitled "The Practice of Teaching Mathematics," and contributed talks by Ohio NExTers. At last fall's meeting, the NExT workshop at Ursuline College featured Michael Henle of Oberlin College and Barbara Ashton of the Borough of Manhattan Community College for the fifty-minute workshops. Tara Mecham of the College of Mount St. Joseph and Kimberly Kendrick of Central State University presented 15-minute talks.

Ohio Project NExT is open to anyone in the Ohio Section who is in his/her first five years of teaching in Ohio. If this applies to you, please consider joining us this fall for our NExT Banquet and Workshop, as well as the Ohio Section Meeting that follows. Contact Chris Swanson (cswanson@ashland.edu) for membership information and details.

Ohio Project NExT is coordinated by Wiebke Diestelkamp, University of Dayton (wiebke@udayton.edu); John Prather, Ohio University Eastern Campus (prather@ohiou.edu); and Chris Swanson, Ashland University (cswanson@ashland.edu).

Student Activities at the Spring Meeting

Leo Schneider Student Mathematical Competition

Undergraduate students from institutions of the Ohio Section are invited to participate in the inaugural Leo Schneider Student Mathematics Competition. This will be the eighth year for the Ohio MAA student team competition, but its name will henceforth honor the memory of our late colleague and friend.

Throughout his career, Leo took a special interest in national mathematics competitions. Leo served as Ohio's regional exam coordinator for the American High School Mathematics Exam, and he was appointed to the national American Mathematics Competitions Committee, which he also chaired for six years. As a result of his service, Leo gained a reputation as one of the country's premier mathematical problem posers, which led to numerous requests for his participation in the creation and judging of various regional mathematics competitions. The Ohio Section will miss Leo dearly, but the student competition will provide a means for remembering Leo's personal and professional contributions to both the Ohio Section and mathematics competitions in general.

This year's competition will take place on Friday from Noon until 1:20 in the Ohio Room of the Kilcawley Center. Rules and registration information, as well as copies of previous years' problems and their solutions, can be found on the Ohio Section Student Member website, <http://www.constum.ohiomaa.org/>. Cash prizes will be awarded on Saturday to the top three teams. We encourage student participation in the entire meeting, including student talks, the student pizza party, and the "awards ceremony" on Saturday. Any questions about the competition or other student activities can be addressed to Matt Menzel at mmm002@marietta.edu.

Try your hand at this problem from the 2010 Student Team Competition:

Let $P(x)$ be a polynomial of degree 2010 satisfying the equation $P(k) = k$ for each integer k between 1 and 2010, inclusive. If $P(0) = 1$, find $P(-1)$.

This was Problem 8. The solution can be found on the CONSTUM website.

Resources for Speakers

Speakers are encouraged to check out these resources that provide tips and strategies for giving good math and science presentations:

- "Technical Speaking," funded by the NSF and hosted by Denison University, at <http://techspeaking.denison.edu/>.
- "Advice on Giving a Good Power Point Talk," *Math Horizons* article by Joe Gallian (April 2006), at www.d.umn.edu/~jgallian/goodPPTalk.pdf.

Student Pizza Party

A student pizza party will be held Friday evening at 6:30 in the Ohio Room of the Kilcawley Center. There is no charge, but meeting registration is necessary. See the Section webpage at www.maa.org/Ohio for online registration. Concurrent with the pizza party will be a showing of "The Great pi/e Debate" featuring Colin Adams vs. Thomas Garrity. The event will be sponsored by the Pi Mu Epsilon chapter of Youngstown State University.

Talks by Students

Undergraduates and graduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts for 15 minute talks at the Spring Meeting. Topics may be drawn from any area of mathematics or a related discipline. The presentation may be an expository talk, a recounting of a mathematical internship or a co-op experience, or the results of a research project. It is expected that each talk will be delivered by a single speaker. Each student speaker will receive a certificate acknowledging their contribution to the meeting.

Contributed talks by students, faculty, and others will be given on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Talks will be scheduled primarily according to topic and audience level. Student talks are an integral part of the meeting and should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all who participate.

See the Call for Contributed Papers on page 4 for submission information.

Spring Meeting Program

Events will take place in the Kilcawley Center at Youngstown State University. This building can be found on the campus map on page 12, and a detailed floor plan is on page 13.

Friday, March 25		
12:00–4:00	Registration	Chestnut
12:00–1:20	Student Competition	Ohio
12:00–1:00	Committee Meetings CONCUR CONSACT CONTEAL Centennial Committee	2036 2067 2068 2069
12:00–4:00	Book Vendors and Exhibits	Chestnut
1:30–1:45	Welcome & Announcements	Chestnut
1:45–2:45	Invited Address: “Combinatorialization of Linear Recurrences through Weighted Tilings” Jennifer Quinn, University of Washington, Tacoma	Chestnut
2:45–3:10	Break	Chestnut
3:10–3:15	Centennial Minute	Chestnut
3:15–4:15	Invited Address: “On Lines and Parabolas, Again and Again” Gordon Swain, Ashland University	Chestnut
4:25–6:20	Contributed Paper Sessions	2068, Bresnahan I/II, Coffelt, Gallery, Humphrey, Jones, Ohio
4:25–6:20	Executive Committee Meeting	2036
6:30–8:00	Student Pizza Party	Ohio
6:30–6:50	Social Time	Chestnut
6:50–8:00	Banquet	Chestnut
8:10–9:00	After Dinner Talk: “Invariants under Group Actions to Amaze Your Friends!” Douglas Ensley, Shippensburg University	Chestnut
9:00	Business Meeting and Presentation of the Teaching Award	Chestnut

Saturday, March 26		
8:00–10:15	Registration	Chestnut
8:00–10:15	Vendor and Book Exhibits	Chestnut
8:00–8:50	Coffee and Pastries	Chestnut
8:05–8:40	Liaisons’ and Department Chairs’ Meeting	2069
8:05–8:40	Committee on Local Arrangements	2036
8:50–9:00	Announcements; Student Competition Results	Chestnut
9:00–10:00	Invited Address: “Permutations in Graph Puzzles” Douglas Ensley, Shippensburg University	Chestnut
10:00–10:20	Break	Chestnut
10:25–11:40	Contributed Paper Sessions	2068, Bresnahan I/II, Coffelt, Gallery, Humphrey, Jones, Ohio
11:50–12:50	Retiring President’s Address: “Will it Go ‘Round in Circles: Will it Ride Smoothly on Bumpy Ground? (YEAH)” Don Hunt, Ohio Northern University	Chestnut
12:50	Closing Remarks	Chestnut

Event locations are subject to change. Check the official program you receive when you register for the meeting in the Chestnut Room. Also, check the Section web page, www.maa.org/Ohio, for program updates, online registration, and contributed paper submissions.

Jennifer Quinn

“Combinatorialization of Linear Recurrences through Weighted Tilings”

Binet’s formula for the n th Fibonacci number,

$$F_n = \frac{(1+\sqrt{5})^n - (1-\sqrt{5})^n}{2^n \sqrt{5}},$$

is a classic example of a closed form solution for a homogenous linear recurrence with constant coefficients. Proofs range from matrix diagonalization to generating functions to strong induction. Could there possibility be a better way? A more visual approach? A combinatorial method?

This talk introduces a combinatorial model using weighted tiles. Coupled with a sign reversing involution, Binet’s formula becomes a direct consequence of counting exceptions. But better still, the weightings generalize to find solutions for any homogeneous linear recurrences with constant coefficients.

Jennifer Quinn earned her BA, MS, and PhD from Williams College, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin, respectively. She is currently the Associate Director for Interdisciplinary Arts

& Sciences at the University of Washington Tacoma (UWT), where she is working to build a mathematics curriculum on the expanding campus. Prior to joining UWT, she served as Executive Director of the Association for Women in Mathematics and before that, spent more than a decade as a faculty



member at Occidental College in Los Angeles. She was co-editor of MAA’s *Math Horizons* from 2004-2009 and co-authored the Beckenbach Award winning book *Proofs That Really Count*, both with Arthur Benjamin. Winner of the MAA’s Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching, Jenny thinks that beautiful proofs are as much art as science and as such, should be enjoyed by everyone.

Don Hunt

“Will It Go ‘Round in Circles? Will it Ride Smoothly on Bumpy Ground? (Yeah)”



The circle is nature’s perfect wheel! By that I mean that on an even roadway a circular wheel provides a perfectly smooth ride.

But what about other shapes for wheels? For example, if the roadway had just the right bumps in it, a square wheel would provide a smooth ride. We’ll examine the

mathematics behind such a road surface. We’ll also look at other regular polygonal shaped wheels, and then generalize to any convex shaped wheel.

Along our smooth ride we will investigate a particular circle-like wheel shape known as a pseudo-circle. There is an interesting story associated with pseudo-circles involving a tragic event in America’s past. The talk will finish with a brief discussion of this event.

Don Hunt holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Baldwin-Wallace College and a M.S. in Statistics from Case Western Reserve University. He earned his Ph.D. at the Ohio State University in complex variable theory under Frank Carroll. Don joined the Ohio Northern University faculty in fall 1999, where he currently serves as chairman of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Since 2000 he has been the faculty advisor to the Ohio Eta chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, the mathematics honor society at Ohio Northern. He is also a two-time holder of the Reichelderfer Endowed Chair in Mathematics. In addition to his normal duties, Don coordinates the school’s high school outreach events, The Mathematics Shootout and Math Awareness Day. Don has been active in the Ohio Section over the past dozen years, serving as local arrangements coordinator for the 2004 summer short course, and serving on and chairing both CONSACT and the Program Committee. He currently serves as president of the Section. Don enjoys his peaceful existence in the beautiful rolling flatlands near Ada, living in his barn and trying to make it into house and home.

Douglas Ensley

“Invariants under Group Actions to Amaze Your Friends!”

By understanding invariant properties of a group action (a.k.a., shuffling) on a deck of cards, a magician can find order where the spectator believes he or she has created disorder, often resulting in a surprising (perhaps even magical) effect. This presentation will present some specific card tricks that illustrate the idea of invariance.



Governor’s School for the Sciences and he served as Visiting Mathematician at the MAA headquarters in 2000. His primary academic interests are in discrete mathematical topics and the use of technology in teaching mathematics.

Doug has been PI on an NSF grant to develop technology-based learning material for the student-centered teaching of mathematical proof, which is

“Permutations in Graph Puzzles”

This presentation will focus on permutations as they arise from some everyday situations; provided, that is, that you are the kind of person who plays with puzzles every day. We will start with the classic “fifteen puzzle” and work toward Wilson’s seminal 1974 puzzle that neatly ties together some fundamental ideas from group theory and graph theory. Along the way, we will talk about other commercial puzzles based on the basic idea, other “recreational” sources of interesting questions about permutations, and some real-world applications of the ideas in Wilson’s paper.

Doug Ensley is Professor of Mathematics at Shippensburg University, where he has been on the faculty since 1993. His first leadership position in mathematics came as co-captain of the Grissom High School Math Team under legendary faculty advisor Mrs. Dorothy Wendt. From there, Doug proceeded to receive his B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Alabama at Huntsville and his M.S. and Ph.D. (model theory) from Carnegie Mellon under the direction of Michael Albert. He taught for many summers at the Pennsylvania

incorporated in his textbook, *Discrete Mathematics: Mathematical Reasoning and Proof with Puzzles, Patterns and Games*, co-authored with Dr. Winston Crawley of Shippensburg. More recently he co-founded (with Dr. Barbara Kaskosz of the University of Rhode Island) the website www.flashandmath.com, which received the 2009 ICTCM Award for Excellence and Innovation with the Use of Technology in Collegiate Mathematics.

Doug is a proud member of the inaugural 1994-95 class of Project NExT and a chronic organizer of paper sessions, minicourses, and summer workshops. He is a big fan of the MAA PREP program, and he is immediate past chair of the WebSIGMAA special interest group. Within the Eastern Pennsylvania-Delaware section, Doug has worn many hats including Section NExT coordinator, Vice Chair, Chair, and Governor. Doug was the first (and only) editor of the MathDL Digital Classroom Resources and saw its transition to its current state as Loci Resources. In addition, he has served on the Advisory Board of MathDL for as long as it has existed.

His website is <http://webpace.ship.edu/deensley/>.

Banquet

The banquet on Friday, March 25, will be in the Chestnut Room of the Kilcawley Center at 6:50. It will be preceded by a cash bar in the same location, starting at 6:30. The meal will be served as a buffet, with main dishes of lemon parmesan chicken and vegetarian baked pasta with seasonal vegetables, for a cost of \$20. You should reserve your banquet tickets when you register for the meeting online at www.maa.org/Ohio, as

there will be few, if any, banquet tickets available for on-site registrants.

The banquet will be followed in the same room by the After-Dinner Talk, the Section Business Meeting, and the presentation of the Section Teaching Award. All meeting participants are welcome at these events, regardless of whether they attend the banquet.

Gordon Swain

“On Lines and Parabolas, Again and Again”

We all know that the development of mathematics has been driven by difficult problems, for example: *solving polynomials*, *squaring the circle*, *planetary motion*, or *Fermat's Last Theorem*. We won't look at these, but instead at an "easy" problem, the squaring of the parabola, which was solved long ago but has persisted as a problem to be tackled by many mathematicians since.

Gordon Swain is a Professor of Mathematics at Ashland University, where he has been teaching for 17 years, as well as dabbling in department leadership and campus troublemaking. While still interested in noncommutative rings, he finds himself often distracted by his growing collection of random material about mathematicians who were fond of parabolas. When he isn't trying to enrich his students' lives, he runs, reads, and hangs out with his fabulous wife and two boys.



About Youngstown State University

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century, making them newer than most buildings in downtown Youngstown, where most buildings were constructed before the Great Depression. YSU's enrollment of undergraduate and graduate students stands at 15,000. Beyond its current student body, YSU claims more than 85,000 alumni. YSU has recently been approved for a Ph.D. program in materials science and continues to develop its graduate programs.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics recently relocated to the Lincoln Building, which houses classrooms, computer laboratories, offices, conference/seminar rooms, and the Mathematics Assistance Center. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at YSU offers coursework toward three bachelor's degrees in mathematics: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science with options in pure mathematics, applied mathematics, statistics, quantitative business, or actuarial mathematics, and the Bachelor of Science in Education. YSU also offers a master's degree in mathematics. Faculty research interests include analysis, algebra, topology, numerical analysis, combinatorics, probability and statistics, applications of mathematics, operations research, and mathematics education. The Department emphasizes undergraduate education and is assisted in its mission by the Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (CURMath), which sponsors many undergraduate activities. YSU has a particularly active local chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is proud of its students' achievements in the COMAP Math Modeling Competition, Putnam Examination, and its number of award-winning presentations at MathFest each year. Each February, YSU's chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon sponsors an undergraduate mathematics conference for students in the local area.

Meeting Registration

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always appreciated. Registration will begin at 12:00pm on Friday in the Chestnut Room of the Kilcawley Center and will continue Saturday morning at 8:00am.

Meeting participants who are unable to register online at www.maa.org/Ohio may register by mail by sending the following information: name, affiliation, address, phone, e-mail address (if any), type of position, and banquet buffet reservation. Send with check, payable to Ohio Section MAA, for applicable fees [registration fee (\$25 ordinary registration, \$10 retired or part-time, no fee for students or first-time attendees), banquet fee (\$20 per person)] to: Ohio Section MAA Spring Meeting, c/o Tom Wakefield, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, One University Plaza, Youngstown, OH 44555. Phone: 330-941-1395; FAX: 330-941-3170. Registration by FAX or e-mail will be pending receipt of registration fees.

CONSACT Update

At the Fall 2010 Ohio Section Meeting, the Committee on Section Activities (CONSACT) held several discussion sessions with the attendees to brainstorm ways of revitalizing the committee's activities. Several new ideas were presented, and a consensus was reached. The current plan is to have a workshop on the Saturday afternoon of the Fall Meeting with a special topic paper session during the meeting centered on the workshop topic. Several suggestions for presenters and topics have already come forward. CONSACT will look at these suggestions with the Executive Committee during the spring meeting at YSU to determine this fall's topic and presenter.

Early Meetings of the Ohio Section

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chairman's address, contributed papers, and a panel discussion.

At the business meeting three officers for the coming year were elected, and the group decided to hold one meeting each spring in conjunction with the Ohio College Association. An amount of 25 cents was collected from each person in attendance to cover printing and postage expenses.

The heart of the program, then as now, consisted of the talks. Professor Charles Judd, of the University of Chicago, delivered an invited address on "The more complete articulation of higher institutions with the high school." The Chairman's address, by R. B. Allen of Kenyon College, was titled "Hypercomplex Number Systems." Eleven other contributed papers were scheduled, dealing with a variety of mathematical and pedagogical topics. (The last two were cancelled, however, due to a lack of time.)

Not only is Columbus near the geographic center of our section, but at the time it was also a hub for five major steam railroads and six electric interurban lines. Therefore it's not surprising that 39 of the first 40 Ohio Section meetings were held on the Ohio State campus.

(The photograph below shows attendees at the second annual meeting, standing in front of Chemistry Hall.) Average attendance at those first forty meetings was 55, with a high of 139 coming to the first meeting to occur outside of Columbus – the 34th annual meeting, held at Denison University in 1950. Beginning at Oberlin College six years later, it became customary to vary the meeting site from year to year, with efforts being made to include all geographic regions of the Section.

A typical meeting took place on a Thursday or Friday and consisted of an afternoon session, dinner, and an evening session. In 1943 only the afternoon session was held, and the 1945 meeting was canceled altogether, due to exigencies of World War II. In 1948 the meeting day was changed to Saturday, with morning and afternoon sessions. This pattern continued through the 50th annual meeting in 1966, after which the present two-day meeting schedule was adopted.

*David Kullman
Miami University
Centennial Committee*



Second Annual Meeting of the Ohio Section, April 6, 1917

Front Row: Grace M. Bareis, Harriet E. Glazier, Anna B. Peckham, R.D. Bohannon, Harris Hancock, F. Anderegg, C.C. Morris, T. Elmer Trott, G.N. Armstrong. Middle Row: C.B. Austin, R.B. Allen, T.M. Focke, W.E. Beckwith, Anna H. Palmie, E.J. Hirschler, W.E. Anderson, C.L. Arnold. Back Row: Not Identified, F.B. Wiley, K.D. Swartzel, H.W. Kuhn, D.T. Wilson, Louis Brand. Photograph taken in front of Chemistry Hall at The Ohio State University.

Driving Directions

From the northwest (Cleveland, Toledo): Take Ohio Turnpike to Exit 218. Follow I-80 East to Belmont Avenue exit 229. Proceed south on Belmont Avenue. Turn left on Gypsy Lane (Walgreens/BP on corner). Turn right onto Fifth Avenue (fourth traffic light after Belmont). Proceed down Fifth Avenue to the M24 parking lot next to McDonald's (Grant Street entrance).

From the north (Ashtabula): Take Route 11 South to the intersection with I-80 East. Take exit 229 of I-80 onto Belmont Avenue. Proceed south on Belmont Avenue. Turn left on Gypsy Lane (Walgreens/BP on corner). Turn right onto Fifth Avenue (fourth traffic light after Belmont). Proceed down Fifth Avenue to the M24 parking lot next to McDonald's (Grant Street entrance).

From the south: Take Ohio Route 11 North to I-80 East. Take exit 229 off of I-80 for Belmont Avenue. Proceed south on Belmont Avenue. Turn left on Gypsy Lane (Walgreens/BP on corner). Turn right onto Fifth Avenue (fourth traffic light after Belmont). Proceed down Fifth Avenue to the M24 parking lot next to McDonald's (Grant Street entrance).

From the west (Akron/Columbus/Cincinnati): Take I-71 or I-77 to I-76 East. Where I-80 and I-76 divide, follow I-80 to exit 229 (Belmont Avenue). Proceed south on Belmont Avenue. Turn left on Gypsy Lane (Walgreens/BP on corner). Turn right onto Fifth Avenue (fourth traffic light after Belmont). Proceed down Fifth Avenue to the M24 parking lot next to McDonald's (Grant Street entrance).

Parking is in the M24 lot between Grant and Arlington Streets. Enter at Grant Street and notify the attendant that you are here for the MAA Conference. You will receive a parking pass good for both Friday and Saturday, so please save the pass for the second day. All events will take place in Kilcawley Center, building 16 on the campus map on page 12 of this newsletter.

There is a YSU campus map on page 12. For additional information, see the Local Arrangements web page, at <http://www.maa.ysumathstat.org/>. The local contact person at Youngstown State University is Tom Wakefield, tpwakefield@ysu.edu, 330-941-1395.

Where to Stay

All three hotels are offering special rates for meeting participants. To obtain the rate listed on this page, mention "YSU Math Conference" when making your reservation. The rates are guaranteed through **25 February 2011**. They are approximately 3 miles from campus.

Hampton Inn

4400 Belmont Avenue

Youngstown, Ohio 44505

Phone: 330-759-9555

Complimentary breakfast, swimming pool, and fitness center. High speed internet access available.

Meeting Rate: \$89.99/night + tax

Days Inn

1615 East Liberty Street

Girard, OH 44420

Phone: 330-759-9820

Free Daybreak breakfast, free high speed Internet, gym/fitness center and pool

Meeting Rate: \$52.99/night + tax

Quality Inn

4055 Belmont Ave.

Youngstown, OH 44505

Phone: (330) 759-3180

Free deluxe continental breakfast, game room. All of the rooms feature an in room safe, microwave, refrigerator, coffee pot, hairdryer, iron & iron board. Indoor heated pool & therapy pool.

Meeting Rate: \$59.99/night + tax

Directions to the Hotels:

All hotels are located on Belmont Avenue, Exit 229 from I-80. The Hampton Inn is located north of I-80 on the corner of Belmont and Churchill Road. The Quality Inn and Days Inn are located on Belmont at the I-80 interchange.

From Belmont Avenue Hotels to Campus:

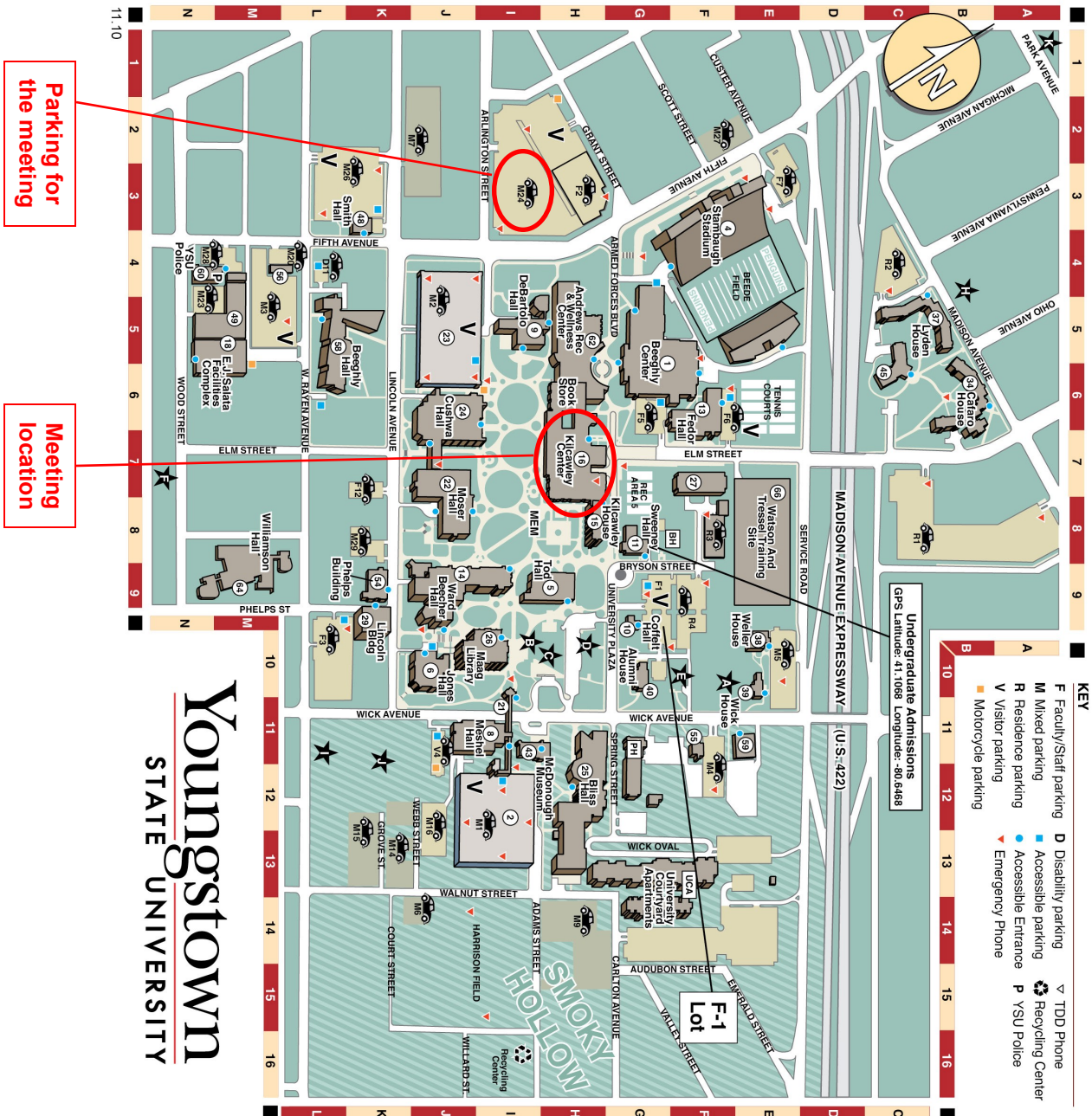
Proceed south on Belmont Avenue. Turn left on Gypsy Lane (Walgreens/BP on corner). Turn right onto Fifth Avenue (fourth traffic light after Belmont). Proceed down Fifth Avenue to the M24 parking lot next to McDonald's (Grant Street entrance).

Youngstown State University Campus Map

#	Name	Grid Location
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100	100	100

University Buildings

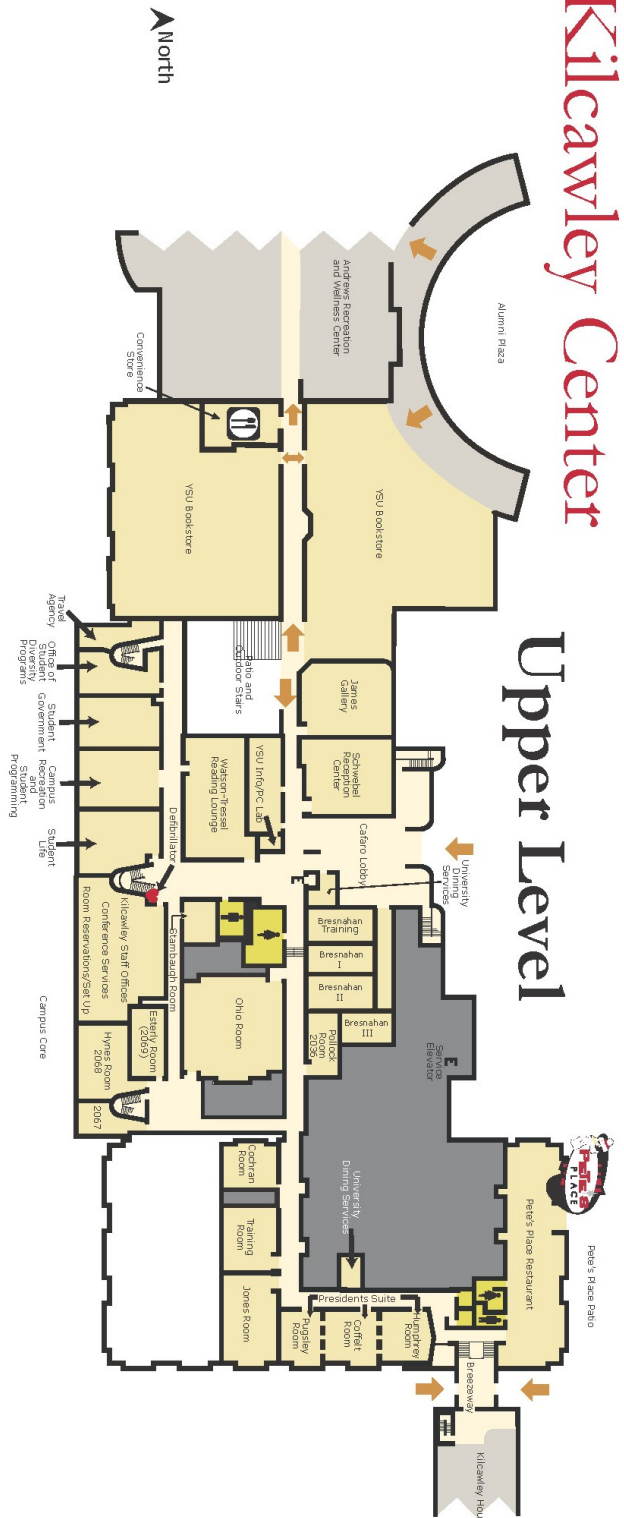
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| MEM | 9/11 Memorial | 8H |
| 40 | Alumni House | 10G |
| 62 | Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center | 5H |
| 1 | Beeghy Center | 5G |
| 58 | Beeghy Hall | 5L |
| 25 | Bliss Hall | 12H |
| BH | Buechner Hall | 8F |
| 34 | Cafaro House | 6B |
| 47 | Central Utility Building | 7F |
| 25 | Christian Dining Commons | 5C |
| 60 | Clingan-Waddell (YSU Police) | 4N |
| 10 | Coftt Hall | 9G |
| 24 | Cushman Hall | 6J |
| 9 | DeBarolo Hall | 5I |
| 56 | Disability Services | 4L |
| 18 | E.J. Sabata Facilities Complex | 5M |
| 13 | Fedor Hall | 6F |
| 6 | Jones Hall | 10J |
| 16 | Kilcawley Center | 7H |
| 15 | Kilcawley House | 8H |
| 29 | Lincoln Building | 10K |
| 37 | Lyden House | 5B |
| 2 | M-1 Parking Deck | 12I |
| 23 | M-2 Parking Deck | 5J |
| 26 | Maag Library | 10I |
| 43 | McDorough Museum of Art | 11I |
| 59 | Melnick Hall | 11E |
| 8 | Mesner Hall | 11I |
| 22 | Moser Hall | 7J |
| 55 | Peck-Schoff House | 11F |
| 21 | Pedestrian Bridge | 11I |
| 54 | Pielops Building | 9K |
| PH | Pollock House | 11G |
| 48 | Smith Hall | 3K |
| 4 | Stambaugh Stadium | 3F |
| 11 | Sweeney Hall | 8G |
| 5 | Tod Hall | 9H |
| UCA | University Courtyard Apartments | 13F |
| 14 | Ward Beecher Hall | 9J |
| 66 | Watson and Tresselt Training Site-WATTS | 8E |
| 38 | Weiler House | 10E |
| 39 | Westinghouse Building | 5M |
| 39 | Wick House | 10E |
| 64 | Williamson Hall | 9M |
| Area Arts & Cultural Venues & Churches | | |
| A | Arms Family Museum of Local History | 10F |
| B | Beecher Center for Technology in the Arts | 10I |
| C | Butler Institute of American Art | 10H |
| D | Butler Institute – North Annex | 10H |
| E | Holy Trinity Romanian Orthodox Church | 10F |
| F | Museum of Industry and Labor | 7N |
| H | Newman Center | 4B |
| I | Public Library | 11L |
| J | St. John's Episcopal Church | 11K |
| K | Wick Park | 1A |



Kilcawley Center Map

Kilcawley Center

Upper Level



Lower Level



Meeting Registration, Invited Addresses, and Banquet

Nominations for Section Officers



The Nominating Committee is pleased to present **Wiebke Diestelkamp** (University of Dayton) as the nominee for President-Elect. After receiving an M.S. and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, Wiebke joined the University of Dayton, where she is now an Associate Professor. She mostly teaches undergraduate and graduate statistics courses, and she is working on research projects with faculty from several other disciplines.

Wiebke has been involved in the Ohio Section in various ways. She participated in Ohio NExT as a new faculty member and currently co-directs Ohio NExT with Chris Swanson and John Prather. Together, they organize workshops for new faculty in conjunction with the meetings of the Ohio Section. Wiebke has served a three-year term on CONCUR and she is currently the Section's Liaison Coordinator.

The Nominating Committee is also pleased to present **Lew Ludwig** (Denison University) for a three-year term on the Program Committee. Lew earned his Ph.D. from Ohio University and has been at Denison University since the fall of 2002. He is a national Project NExT Fellow and serves on the national Committee on the Teaching of Undergraduate Mathematics. Locally, he is active in the Section sponsoring numerous student talks and as chair of CONSACT. In 2009, he organized the Ohio Section Summer Workshop on knot theory by Dr. Colin Adams with 19 participants. Lew is very active in undergraduate research with three publications involving students and his students have earned eleven national awards for presenting their work at MathFest and the JMM.



The election of officers will take place at the Business Meeting, Friday evening, March 25, after the banquet at Youngstown State University. At that time, nominations for other candidates may also be made from the floor. The President-Elect serves for one year and then becomes Section President. The senior person on the Program Committee serves as the chair.

*Vickie Van Dresar, Chair
Tom Dence
Bill Higgins*

President's Message

(Continued from page 3)

make it so. As president of the Section I've had the opportunity to work closely with the officers and other officials of the Section and can attest to their professionalism and dedication. With that in mind, I make one last request to those of you who may be interested in volunteering to serve, please do so; it's a great way to contribute to the Section. Also, for you younger faculty members, it's another bullet for the CV!

Thank you all for allowing me to serve this past year; it's been a great honor. Assuming all goes as planned; I'll see you at Youngstown State at the end of March.

*Don Hunt
Ohio Northern University
Ohio Section President*

Campus Notes

Capital University: Dr. Bob Mertens retired at the end of the 2010 fall semester and Dr. Tom Gearhart will retire at the end of this academic year. Each has been at Capital for more than twenty-five years and both served as the chair of the department. The department wishes them well and wants to thank them for their years of service and leadership.

John Carroll University: Dr. Eric Fuglister will be retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, after 25 years in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

Sinclair Community College:

Shirin Badiei and Jeff Hollon were hired as Annually Contracted Faculty in fall 2010. Sinclair is one of the colleges that is involved in the Statway and Mathway project in collaboration with the Carnegie Foundation and the Dana Center. Jim Willis, Ed Gallo and Kinga Oliver are the faculty members from the department who are involved in this project.

2010-2011 Ohio Section Officers and Committees

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Don Hunt, Ohio Northern University
419-772-2351; d-hunt@onu.edu

Past-President #1

Mark Miller, Marietta College
740-376-4811; millerr@marietta.edu

Past President #2

Vickie Van Dresar, Ashland University
419-289-5265; vvandres@ashland.edu

President-Elect

Jon Stadler, Capital University
614-236-6905; jstadler@capital.edu

Section Governor

Al Stickney, Wittenberg University
937-327-7856; astickney@wittenberg.edu

Secretary

Pamela Warton, University of Findlay
419-434-4147; warton@findlay.edu

Treasurer

Brian Shelburne, Wittenberg University
937-327-7862; bshelburne@wittenberg.edu

OTHER OFFICERS

Department Liaisons Coordinator

Wiebke Diestelkamp, University of Dayton
937-229-2013; wiebke@udayton.edu

Webmaster

Darren Wick, Ashland University
419-289-5795; dwick@ashland.edu

On-line Registration

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Newsletter Editor

Barbara D'Ambrosia, John Carroll Univ.
216-397-4682; bdambrosia@jcu.edu

Ohio Project NExT Co-Coordinators

Wiebke Diestelkamp, University of Dayton
937-229-2013; wiebke@udayton.edu
Chris Swanson, Ashland University
419-289-5264; cswanson@ashland.edu
John Prather, Ohio University Eastern
740-699-2498; prather@ohio.edu

OhioMATYC Liaison to OhioMAA

Jim Anderson, University of Toledo

OhioMAA Liaison to OhioMATYC

Robert Hovis, Ohio Northern University

OMSC Liaison

Katie Cerrone, University of Akron

OCTM Liaison

Sandy Schroeder, Ohio Northern University

Archivist

Daniel Otero, Xavier University
513-745-2012; otero@xavier.edu

COMMITTEES

* Denotes committee chair. Elected Officers and Committee Chairs are voting members of the Executive Committee. Terms expire at the end of the Spring meetings of the year listed. See the Bylaws.

Program Committee

*Phil Blau, Shawnee State University (2011)
David Singer, Case Western Reserve U. (2012)
Adam Parker, Wittenberg University (2013)

CONTEAL

*John Prather, Ohio Univ Eastern (2011)
John Williams, Malone College (2011)
Chris O'Connor, Shawnee State Univ (2011)
Susan Thompson, Otterbein College (2011)
Pam Warton, University of Findlay (2012)
Shelly McGee, University of Findlay (2012)
Richard Little, Baldwin-Wallace Coll. (2013)
Drew Pasteur, College of Wooster (2013)
Sandy Schroeder, Ohio Northern Univ (2013)

CONSTUM

*Matthew Menzel, Marietta College, (2012)
Christopher Swanson, Ashland Univ (2012)
Mihai Caragiu, Ohio Northern Univ (2011)
Thomas Wakefield, Youngstown St. U. (2012)
Kelsie McCartney, Bowling Green St. U. (2013)
Ryan Rahrig, Ohio Northern University (2013)

CONSACT

*Angela Spalsbury, Youngstown St. U. (2012)
Lew Ludwig, Denison University (2011)
Shannon Miller, Marshall University (2011)

CONCUR

*William Fuller, Ohio Northern Univ (2011)
Richard Daquilla, Muskingum College (2011)
Chandra Dinavahi, U. of Findlay (2013)
David Stuckey, Defiance College (2013)

OTHER COMMITTEES

Nominating Committee

*Vickie Van Dresar, Ashland U. (2013)
Bill Higgins, Wittenberg University (2012)
Tom Dence, Ashland University (2011)

Committee on Contests

David Stenson, John Carroll Univ, AMC12

Teaching Award Committee

* Mark Miller, Marietta Coll. (Past President)
Pamela Warton, University of Findlay (Secretary),
Bill Higgins, Wittenberg University (Past recipient 2007)
Judy Holdener, Kenyon College (Past recipient 2008)
Richard Little, Baldwin-Wallace College (Past recipient 2010)

Centennial Committee

*David Kullman, Miami University
Tom Hern, Bowling Green State University
Danny Otero, Xavier University
John Zimmerman, Washington and Jefferson College
Tom Dence, Ashland University
Jon Dunlap, Terra Community College

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

Spring 2011: Youngstown State University
Tom Wakefield, tpwakefield@ysu.edu

Fall 2011: University of Findlay
Judy McCrory, jmccrory@findlay.edu

Spring 2012: Xavier University
Daniel Otero, otero@xavier.edu

Fall 2012: Baldwin-Wallace College
David Calvis, DCalvis@bw.edu

Thank You to the many people who contributed articles and information for this newsletter.

Barbara D'Ambrosia, Editor

Calendar

Ohio Section Meetings

Fall 2011 Section Meeting, October 21-22, 2011,
University of Findlay, Findlay, OH

Spring 2012 Section Meeting, April 13-14, 2012, Xavier
University, Cincinnati, OH

Fall 2012 Section Meeting, dates to be announced,
Baldwin-Wallace College, Cleveland, OH

National MAA-AMS Meetings



Annual Joint Meetings, January 4-7, 2012, Boston, MA

MathFest, August 2-4, 2012, Madison, WI

Annual Joint Meetings, January 9-12, 2013, San Diego,
CA

MathFest, August 1-3, 2013, Hartford, CT

Annual Joint Meetings, January 15-18, Baltimore, MD

MathFest, August 5-8, 2015, Washington, D.C.

Other Meetings: Ohio and Surrounding States

Kentucky Section MAA Section, Mar 25-26, 2011,
Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY
<http://sections.maa.org/kentucky/>

Illinois Section MAA, Apr 7-9, 2011, North Central
College, Naperville, IL, <http://ismaa.knox.edu/>

Allegheny Mountain Section MAA, Apr 8-9, 2011,
Clarion University, Clarion, PA
<http://sections.maa.org/allegheny/>

Indiana Section MAA, Apr 8-9, 2011, Indiana Wesleyan
University, Marion, IN, <http://sections.maa.org/indiana/>

Great Lakes Section SIAM, Apr 16, 2011, Oakland
University, Rochester, MI
<http://groups.engin.umd.umich.edu/siam/>

OhioMATYC Spring Meeting, Apr 29-30, 2011,
Punderson Manor State Park
http://www.ohiomatyc.org/index.php?p=1_24

Michigan Section MAA, May 6-7, 2011, Western
Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
<http://www.michmaa.org/>

OCTM Annual Meeting, Oct 13-14, 2011, Toledo, OH
http://www.ohioctm.org/conference_2011.htm

Central Section AMS, Oct 20-21, 2011, University of
Akron, Akron, OH
<http://www.ams.org/meetings/sectional/sectional.html>

Other National Meetings

International Conference on Technology in Collegiate
Mathematics (ICTCM), Mar 17-20, 2011, Denver, CO

NCTM, Apr 13-16, 2011, Indianapolis, IN

Joint Statistical Meetings, Jul 30-Aug 4, 2011, Miami
Beach, FL

AMATYC Annual Conference, Nov 10-13, 2011, Austin,
TX

Akron Art Museum Special Exhibits

Two current exhibits at the Akron Art Museum may be of interest to Ohio Section members:

- Sarah Kabot: "Unfolding Space" on exhibit February 12 - June 11, 2011
- M.C. Escher: "Impossible Realities" on exhibit February 12 - June 11, 2011

More information is available at the museum website: <http://www.akronartmuseum.org/>