



OHIO FOCUS

The Ohio Section Newsletter

Volume 7

Fall 2004

Number 5

Fall Meeting at John Carroll University October 22 - 23



Dolan Center for Science and Technology

The Fall meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held at John Carroll University, University Heights, OH on October 22-23, 2004. The meeting starts at noon Friday and continues through closing remarks at 12:40 Saturday. Invited speakers include Edward Spitznagel of Washington University, St. Louis, James Sellers of Penn State University, Elizabeth Wilmer of Oberlin College and Thomas Dence of Ashland University. Contributed paper sessions are scheduled for Friday afternoon and Saturday morning

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2004 Ohio Section Teaching Award

Professor Leo Schneider of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, John Carroll University is the 2004 recipient of the prestigious Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics given by the Ohio Section. The award was presented at the spring meeting of the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America held at the University of Cincinnati on Friday, March 26, 2004.

Professor Schneider grew up in the Cincinnati area and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Xavier University. In 1963, after two years in the Army Ordinance Corps, where his job involved teaching civilian Armory directors how to program and operate computer-controlled machine tools, he entered academia as an instructor of mathematics at the same university he now serves as professor of mathematics. He earned his Ph.D. from Case-Western Reserve University in 1971 having taken a two-year leave to complete his dissertation on differential equations.

Over the past four decades, Prof. Schneider has taught a wide variety of courses in mathematics and computer science at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. According to his colleagues there is no question that he is his department's champion at "both enthusiasm and completeness in his promulgation of mathematics." They remark that he approaches each course with extraordinary zeal, that he is both complete and

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Section Governor's Report

Well I am just back from Mathfest, and I can now pass on something that I was sworn to secrecy about.

I can report that Aparna Higgins will be one of the three 2005 recipients of the national MAA teaching award. And in good company--Gerald Alexanderson and Deborah Hughes-Hallett are the other two. See the award link on the Section web page, www.maa.org/Ohio, for more about her and her Section teaching award. Congratulations Aparna. Aparna is very busy these days. She is a Co-Director of Project NExT, is on the program committee for the next annual meeting in January in Atlanta, and she found time to make a presentation to the Bowling Green PMET workshop.

The PMET workshops last summer went very well. The Kent State workshop for educating elementary teachers will repeat in summer 2005. From a personal vantage point I can report that the the Bowling Green middle school workshop went very well. The group bonded almost immediately. There was no delay in ice breaking. Everyone pitched in with interest and enthusiasm that lasted the whole week. Of the 17 attendees 11 were from Ohio, with some from both coasts. In addition to Aparna, among the presenters were Fred Rickey, David Meel, Barbara Moses, and Joan Leitzel. The second half of the workshop will be held in July of 2005. You can see more about this workshop at www.bgsu.edu/departments/math/Ohio-section/pmet/part.html

More workshops are planned for next year. Check out the PMET web site, www.maa.org/PMET/, for more information.

In official business at Mathfest, the Ohio Section Bylaws as amended by the Section over the last couple of years were approved by the Board of Governors, the final hurdle. They actually printed the entire bylaws in the agenda book (Note I said book, not booklet). The Section is indebted to Bill Friel and Dick Horwath for their extensive and diligent service as the bylaws committee for many years. And for Bill's followup as Section Secretary-Treasurer. As is often said, the devil is in the details. Actually Bill might have a reason to want to shepherd the changes through. The main change is to separate the post of Secretary-Treasurer. Just kidding, Bill. ;-)

The Section Executive Committee decided on the following transition: the Sec-

retary-Elect will begin office in May 2005 and hence become Secretary in May 2006, and a new Treasurer-Elect will follow the next year.

The revised Bylaws are online on the Section web page and were printed in a previous issue of the newsletter. Slight revisions were requested by the Committee on Sections, and this final version was approved by the Board of Governors this summer. Please check these out. We strictly adhere to these bylaws. The first thing a new Section President needs to do is print off a copy and refer to it often. Most questions are cleared up this way. There is not a lot of 'oral tradition'.

The Section History, a version of which is online, has all the previous Bylaws and Constitutions of the Section, beginning in 1915.

One of the things brought up at the Section Officer's Meeting is that the MAA is preparing for the centennial in 2015. A national meeting is planned for Columbus, the birthplace of the MAA. A Committee on the Centennial Celebration of the MAA has been appointed. The Committee on Sections is collecting all the histories of the sections. We should start planning for a centennial edition of our section history, which was last published in 1990.

In that history, it was mentioned that in 1966, when Kenneth May was preparing *The Mathematical Association of America: Its First Fifty Years*, he wrote to Foster Brooks, then Secretary-Treasurer of the Section, asking for information about the history of the section. Brooks replied indicating that he had "the complete file of papers of the section." This was followed in the history by the phrase "The present whereabouts of these files is unknown."

Well good news, they are found! Ray Rolwing, who followed Foster Brooks in 1972, brought a box to the recent Cincinnati meeting and gave it to Chuck Groetsch. That box contained all the records from 1915 to the 1940's. Foster Brooks, who some will remember from Kent State, became Secretary-Treasurer in 1947, following Rufus Crane of Ohio Wesleyan University, who had been in that office since 1926. Before that George N. Armstrong of OWU held the office. Crane had carefully organized and preserved these records.

It turns out that much of the information was already in *The Monthly*, which Dave Kullman and colleagues drew upon for the section history. But it was a won-

derful find none-the-less. Thanks Ray for preserving the records and passing them on.

But this does bring up another issue. The *Monthly* stopped publishing reports of section meetings in 1980. Because we have had a section newsletter since 1972, there has been an uninterrupted publishing of the Section's activities. But a new trend is emerging among the sections of the MAA, and I was reminded of that at the Section Officer's Meeting. Many sections have stopped printing a newsletter, and place everything online. That scares me a little, since I have always felt that the newsletter was the Section's publication of record. Some things are printed in the newsletter as much for the purpose of recording events as for announcements. Who is archiving those electronic records? I can tell you that I have kept many things online from my days as web master, and Tom Price does too. But how long will that continue? And who can predict when BGSU will wipe out

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OHIO FOCUS

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

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Deadline for the next newsletter is

February 7, 2005

Email copy is preferred.

Please send copy to the Editors (above) for the newsletter and to the Section Webmaster, Tom Price (teprice@uakron.edu), for the web.

This information will also be posted and updated on the web page www.maa.org/Ohio

all my files?

In other business, the Board took care of a lot of routine: approving awards and positions, hearing reports, etc. For the second year in a row the annual audit has had 'no reportable conditions,' which is a technical accounting phrase. That is good news; the finances and accounting are in good shape and improving. It was also reported that NSF was "extremely pleased" with the outcome of its audit that I mentioned last time. The reporting of the financial affairs of the MAA to the Board and public has been improved and clarified even more this year. These affairs are in very good hands under Treasurer John Kenelly, and finance and investment committee members Dan Maki and Jim Daniels.

The Board meets again in January in Atlanta just prior to the National Joint Meetings. Join me there for a meeting which promises to be a good one. Get your plane tickets soon!

Thomas Hern
Section Governor
hern@wcnet.org

2005 Summer Short Course

Plans are being made for the Ohio Section 2005 Summer Short Course! Mark your calendars now, as dates are set for June 27 - 29, 2005 at John Carroll University. The presenter will be Barbara Reynolds of Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee. The exact topic is still being nailed down, but possibilities include looking at symmetries, tessellations, or mathematics in art. The course is being planned to include a blend of classroom and computer work. More information should be available at the Fall meeting.

President's Message

I hope that all is well with you, and that you've had a relaxing and yet productive summer. This fall, we're hearing (and going to hear a lot more) messages from two people who want to be President of the United States. So, I'll keep my presidential message fairly short. Lots more vacation and much higher pay for everyone! That's my slogan; like it? I don't discuss implementation or funding. I just like the ring of it, don't you?

On the serious side now, this past spring, we had a truly GREAT Section Meeting on the campus of the University of Cincinnati. All the featured talks were terrific and loaded with good mathematics. We had a near record number of student talks (I think). Barbara Ashton and Joe Gallian treated Ohio Project NExT to exciting featured workshop talks. And we had our first student mathematics competition, which was quite a success. I thank everyone who was involved in the organization and implementation of the Spring Meeting.

My principal involvement with our Ohio Section these past three years has been with Ohio Project NExT. This year, I would like to continue to emphasize Ohio Project NExT. I believe that every person reading this message who is in his/her first four years of college/university mathematics teaching should join this marvelous program. It's not about how to get tenure at your institution. It is about how to become a valued professional (building a network around the Section, finding your niche within the profession, learning more about teaching, and discovering how to become a faculty member - things not covered

much, if at all, in graduate school). I also believe that every person reading this message who has been at his/her institution for more than twenty years should be working toward obtaining the funding (about \$2000) for each new faculty member to join Ohio Project NExT. At hiring time, the Dean should be setting aside \$2000 for the professional development of the new hire who will be joining your department the following fall term. The \$2000 (\$250 times 8) will cover travel expenses for Ohio Project NExT workshops and Ohio Section Meetings for four years. I urge you to work with your department chair and dean to make this possible for new hires in your department. Please contact Dave Sobecki <sobeckdm@muohio.edu> for membership information for Ohio Project NExT.

I certainly want to take this opportunity to congratulate our own Aparna Higgins on winning one of the three 2005 national MAA teaching awards. We are very fortunate to have Aparna involved in many aspects of our Section and mathematics students at the University of Dayton are doubly blessed as they have her as a teacher too.

I hope to see you at the Fall Meeting at John Carroll University. It will be my first time on the JCU campus and I'm really looking forward to the journey to the great northeast (Cleveland). Being from the great southwest (Oxford), I guess that I'll have to put away the suntan lotion for that weekend and pack my winter coat. It will be worth it. See you there!

Mark A. Smith

Ohio Project NExT Cincinnati & Cleveland, 2004

Ohio Project NExT is a program to help young faculty members network with colleagues, share ideas and experiences that promote professional growth, and encourage involvement in the Ohio Section.

Preceding the semi-annual (Friday-Saturday) Ohio Section Meetings, members of Ohio Project NExT gather on Thursday evening for a banquet. After the banquet, the NExTers spend an hour or so discussing a topic of interest to them as young faculty members. Then, on Friday morning, the NExT workshop is held. The workshop usually features two major speakers, along with two or three contributed talks by NExT members.

This past March, Ohio NExTers gathered at the historic Vernon Manor Hotel in Cincinnati for our banquet and discussion of faculty mentoring structures and experiences. The Friday workshop on the campus of the University of Cincinnati featured Barbara Ashton (Wittenberg University) who spoke on "Mathematics and Religion" and Joe Gallian (University of Minnesota - Duluth) who spoke on "Finding Your Niche in the Profession". Angie Spalsbury and George Yates (both from Youngstown State University) gave the two contributed talks.

This fall, Ohio NExTers will gather in

Cleveland on Thursday, October 21 prior to the Fall Section Meeting at John Carroll University. Please contact Dave Sobecki <sobeckdm@muohio.edu> for membership information. As this fall's Workshop details become available, they will be posted on the NExT web page, which is linked to the Section page (www.maa.org/Ohio).

Ohio Project NExT is open to anyone who is in his/her first five years of teaching in the Ohio Section. Please consider joining us for this fall's NExT Banquet and Workshop, and the Ohio Section meeting.

Mark A. Smith

2004-2005 Ohio Section Officers and Committees

ELECTED OFFICERS

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COMMITTEES

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

Program Committee
*Vickie Van Dresar, Ashland Univ 2005
Bill Higgins, Wittenberg Univ. 2006
Barbara D'Ambrosia,
John Carroll University 2007

Committee on Curriculum (CONCUR)
*Michelle Wiggins,
Ursuline College 2006
Roger Marty,
Cleveland State Univ. 2006
(Two other members of this committee will soon be added.)

Committee on Section Activities (CONSACT)
* Lisa Rome, College of Mt. St. Joseph 2005
Danny Otero, Xavier University 2007
(One more member of this committee will soon be added.)

Committee on Student Members (CONSTUM)
*Darren Wick, Ashland Univ. 2007
Christopher Swanson, Ashland Univ. 2007
Jeffrey Adler, Univ of Akron 2005
Mihai Caragui, Ohio Northern Univ. 2005
Judith Holdener, Kenyon College 2006

Committee on Teacher Education and Certification/Licensure (CONTEAL)
*David Kullman, Miami Univ 2006
Susan Thompson, Otterbein College 2005
John Prather, OSU - Eastern 2005
Ann Ritchey, Mt. Union College 2005
Marsha Nichol, Capital Univ 2006
Irina Chernikova, Univ of Akron 2006

OTHER COMMITTEES

* denotes committee chair.

Nominating Committee
*Harold Putt, Ohio Northern Univ. 2007
Tom Gantner, Univ. of Dayton 2006
Judith Palagallo, Univ. of Akron 2005

Committee on Contests
Bill Higgins, Wittenberg Univ. AMC8
David Stenson, John Carroll AMC12

Teaching Award Committee
Dale Mugler, Univ of Akron (Past Pres.)
J. William Friel, Dayton (Sec./Treas.)
Tom Dence, Ashland Univ.
Jerry Moreno, John Carroll Univ.

Local arrangements for meetings:

Fall 2004, John Carroll University
Barbara D'Ambrosia,
bdambrosia@jcu.edu

Spring 2005, Miami University, Oxford
Mark de Saint-Rat,
desainme@muohio.edu

*For latest additions see the MAA Ohio Section's web site at
<http://www.maa.org/Ohio>*

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and readers are encouraged to submit talks! Further details about the meeting can be found on pages 8-11 and on page 7.

The Dolan Center, which opened in the fall of 2003, was the largest construction project in the history of John Carroll University. The Dolan Center houses the departments of biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and computer science, and psychology, and supports initiatives to improve K-12 education and encourage technology start-ups in northeastern Ohio. The center is also home to two other entities. The Center for Mathematics and Science Education, Teaching and Technology, established in 1999, conducts professional

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Campus News

Capital University: Dr. Jon Stadler was appointed as the new chair of the department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Physics at Capital University beginning August, 2004. He replaces Dr. Robert Mertens who has been chair of the department for eight years.

John Carroll University: Nancy Campbell is on leave for the 2003-2004 school year. We welcome Ashraf El-Houbi as a visiting assistant professor. Ashraf has a Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of Wyoming (2004).

Miami University: This fall, Miami welcomed two new tenure-track Assistant Professors to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Dr. Olga Brezhneva earned her Ph.D. in optimization from the Russia Academy of Sciences, Moscow, in 2000 and has held a research position at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, University of Minnesota, for the last two years. Dr. Paul Larson earned his Ph.D. in set theory from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1998 and has held several research appointments since - the last in Spain this past year. Also this past year, Beata Randriana was promoted to the academic rank of Professor effective this academic year. During the fall 2004 semester, set-theoretic topologist Professor Alexander Arhangel'skii (Moscow University and Ohio University) is visiting as Miami's Distinguished Visiting Professor.

University of Akron: Drs. Judy Palagallo, Tom Price, Jeff Adler, and Jeff Riedl have received an NSF grant titled "REU Site: Undergraduate Research in Mathematics (Algebra, Number theory, and Application), \$162,921, which makes the University of Akron the only current active REU site in mathematics in the State of Ohio!

Dr. Jeff Adler received the 2004 College Early Career Research Award.

Dr. Dmitry Golovaty received the 2004 College Chairs' Research Award.

Dr. Tom Price received the 2004 College Chairs' Teaching Award.

Dr. Antonio Quesada received an award from the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education for excellence in teaching during the 2002-2003 academic year. He was also recently named an Ohio Board of Regents Teaching Fellow.

Mr. Lance Nelson received the 2004 College Part-time Teaching Award.

Ms. Heidi Robinson received the 2004 University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (master's level).

McNair Scholar Maria Salcedo of YSU (advisor Judy Palagallo) received a Best Presentation Award at the 2003 MAA Mathfest.

Youngstown State University: Dr. G. Jay Kerns will be joining the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Youngstown State University as an assistant professor. Dr. Kerns received his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University.

Bowling Green State University: John Chen, Corneliu Hoffman, and Tong Sun received tenure and promotion.

John Chen and David Meel received the Ohio Alpha Chapter's KME Excellence in Teaching Mathematics Award.

John Gresser retired in June after 35 years at BGSU.

James Bailey, retired Vice President of Citibank and 1967 BGSU graduate, has endowed a chair in mathematics education in the department.

Bethany Fehrman was selected as one of the three best Graduate Teaching Assistants on BG's campus for 2003.

Richard Little of Baldwin-Wallace is visiting BGSU 2004-5.

University of Dayton: Aparna Higgins has been chosen as one of the recipients of the MAA's 2005 Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. These awards are given to recognize college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions. They will be presented at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Atlanta in January 2005.

Aparna also gave one of the MAA Invited Addresses at the Providence Mathfest, entitled "Pebbling results by undergraduate researchers."

The Department of Mathematics is offering a professional program in quantitative methods in finance: the Master in Financial Mathematics. More information about this program can be found at <http://academic.udayton.edu/FinMath/>.

Ruihua Liu has joined the department. He earned his PhD in financial mathematics from the University of Georgia. Youssef Raffoul has been promoted to Associate Professor.

The Department of Mathematics will host its annual Mathematics event on Saturday, November 6, 2004. The 5th Annual Schraut Memorial Lecture (given this year by Dr. Jane Pendergast, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Public Health Statistics at the University of Iowa) and the 21st Biennial Alumni Seminar (in which alumni/ae return to share information about mathematical careers with undergraduates interested in mathematics) will be held in the afternoon and all are welcome to participate.

Conversations among Women in Mathematics will be held in the morning, and we welcome women undergraduates for a panel discussion, workshops on mathematical topics, and a luncheon. Details can be found at <http://academic.udayton.edu/MathEvents/Fall04.htm>.

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RESULTS OF FIRST ANNUAL STUDENT TEAM COMPETITION

The first annual Ohio MAA student team competition was held March 26, 2004 at the University of Cincinnati. Seventeen teams participated with a total of 44 students. Schools represented were Ashland University, Capital University, John Carroll University, Kenyon College, Mount Union College, Ohio Wesleyan University, University of Akron, University of Dayton, and Youngstown State University.

Final results of the competition:

First Place: Kenyon College - Jun Ma, Stephen DeSanto, Ed Ceasar

Second Place: Ohio Wesleyan University - Slesh Shrestha, Diyan Iliev, Stefan Natu

Third Place: Kenyon College - Lee Kennard, Matt Zaremsky

A copy of the exam and competition rules can be found at <http://personal.ashland.edu/~dwick/constum.html>

The second annual competition will be held April 1, 2005 at Miami University. Registration information will be posted on the Ohio MAA website. If you have any questions, please email Darren Wick at dwick@ashland.edu. Get your teams ready!

Darren Wick

Campus Notes continued from page 5

Wittenberg University: Doug Andrews, statistician and member of the Wittenberg Department of Mathematics and Computer Science since 1989, was promoted to Professor effective fall, 2004.

Barbara Ashton has left the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Wittenberg University and has accepted an appointment in the Department of Mathematics at the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York City. Barbara has settled in New York City with her husband, Bill, who teaches psychology at York College, City University of New York in Jamaica, N.Y.

Midstates Undergraduate Research Conference

Denison University will be hosting the second annual Midstates Conference for Undergraduate Research in Computer Science and Mathematics on Saturday, October 30. The conference features original research talks by undergraduate students from the greater Midwest region. Registration, call for papers, and additional information can be found on the conference website at <http://www.denison.edu/mathsci/mcurcsm2004>.

Lew Ludwig

Fall Meeting continued from page 4

development programs for teachers from over 30 public and private school districts to help them improve content knowledge and teaching skills. And John Carroll Collaborative with Industry (JCCI) provides laboratory and office space for start-up ventures and established research-oriented companies, affording students campus-based internships and industrial research projects.

2004 Ohio Section Teaching Award continued from page 1



Dale Mugler and Leo Schneider

challenging and that his teaching is laced with just the right amount of humor. They also note that his course syllabi are legendary at his institution. In addition, our distinguished teacher has had an enormous impact on students through encouraging them to engage in mathematics beyond the classroom. In this regard a colleague notes that he is the undisputed champion of their department as he has coached more students in presenting talks and writing papers than the rest of the department combined.

Current and former students have high praise for Professor Schneider's teaching effectiveness and fond memories of the time spent in his classes. They cite as major assets his energy, enthusiasm, organization, passion for mathematics and sense of humor. He has a reputation among them for being demanding but fair. One wrote that he "never underestimated a student's ability, and didn't let them work less than to their potential." A former student indicated that our awardee showed her the process of thinking mathematically, not just the finished product of doing mathematics. She wrote "after all these years, I can still see him creating a table of numbers at the board, showing us how he found patterns, and giving us a peek into the mathematical mind. ... He truly

enjoyed his work. In his class I learned that I, too, could begin to think like a mathematician. Any anxiety vanished and my own enjoyment of mathematics began to take hold."

Professor Schneider has also been an extremely active participant in the mathematical community at the state and national level. For example, he has served this Section as Program Committee Chair, President-Elect, President, Past-President, and Governor. However, it may be that he is best known for having as one colleague wrote "given a large portion of his life to posing problems for students of the world to work on." Along these lines he has served as Ohio's Regional Exam Coordinator for the AHSME, an American Mathematics Competitions Committee Member, an American Mathematics Competitions Panel Member, Chair of the MAA Committee on American Mathematics Competitions, Chair of the Committee for the AHSME and an International Mathematical Olympiad Volunteer and Coordinator.

(Adapted by the editors from the teaching award citation written by Harold Putt on behalf of the Teaching Award Committee.)

Call for Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations

Do you know a colleague, former teacher, or friend who is a great college mathematics teacher? This is your chance to nominate that person for special recognition, as nominations for the 2005 Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics are very much desired.

It does take some organization to nominate an individual for the teaching award, but you'll find it quite straightforward. The person you nominate should be a member of the MAA Ohio Section, have at least five years of college-level teaching experience, and be widely recognized as being successful in their teaching. The complete requirements can be found at the website www.math.uakron.edu/ohiomaa/Award/nominate.htm. The nomination would include a completed one-page form (which can be downloaded from the web site above), a fairly extensive description of why you feel the individual should receive the award, the nominee's vita, and the inclusion of some recommendations from former students and colleagues.

The award will be announced at the banquet of the Section at the 2005 Spring meeting, and our committee will publicize the award. Official letters describing the award will be sent to administrators at the awardee's institution, the campus newspaper, and the award will be announced in the Section newsletter. The awardee's file will be forwarded to the national MAA to be the Section's candidate for the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Pictures of each section's candidate are included in a national MAA newsletter, and three individuals are chosen for the national award, which includes a cash prize.

The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2005. Please address inquiries or nominations to the committee chair: Dale H. Mugler, Honors Office, The University of Akron, Akron, OH 44325-1803; dmugler@uakron.edu.

Dale Mugler

Call for Contributed Papers - continued from page 11

would be of interest to those in attendance are welcome. The presentation rooms will include a chalkboard and/or whiteboard, and a system consisting of: a computer (PC compatible) with CD drive, 250 MB Zip drive, and Microsoft Office suite, including PowerPoint; ceiling-mounted projector; document camera with zooming capability (for opaque material or transparencies); internet connection; and VHS/DVD player. The contributed paper program will be posted on the web page prior to the meeting.

Contributors should send a title and a brief abstract by October 6, 2004. Although online submission with your meeting registration is preferred, you may also submit your title and abstract by mail or email to the chair of the Program Committee: Vickie Van Dresar, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Ashland University, 401 College Ave, Ashland, OH 44805; vvandres@ashland.edu. Please use only plain text in your title and abstract as the abstract submittal system cannot process TeX or other graphics code.

Meeting Registration - continued from page 11

making arrangements and is always appreciated.

You may also register by sending the following information: name, affiliation,

address, phone, email address (if any), type of position, and banquet information, to Barbara D'Ambrosia, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH 44118, bdambrosia@jcu.edu.

Whether you register online or by mail, come to the meeting with your check, payable to Ohio Section MAA, for applicable fees [registration fee (\$20 full time, \$10 retired or part time, no fee for students), banquet (\$21 for Chicken or \$16 Vegetarian)].

Book Exhibits

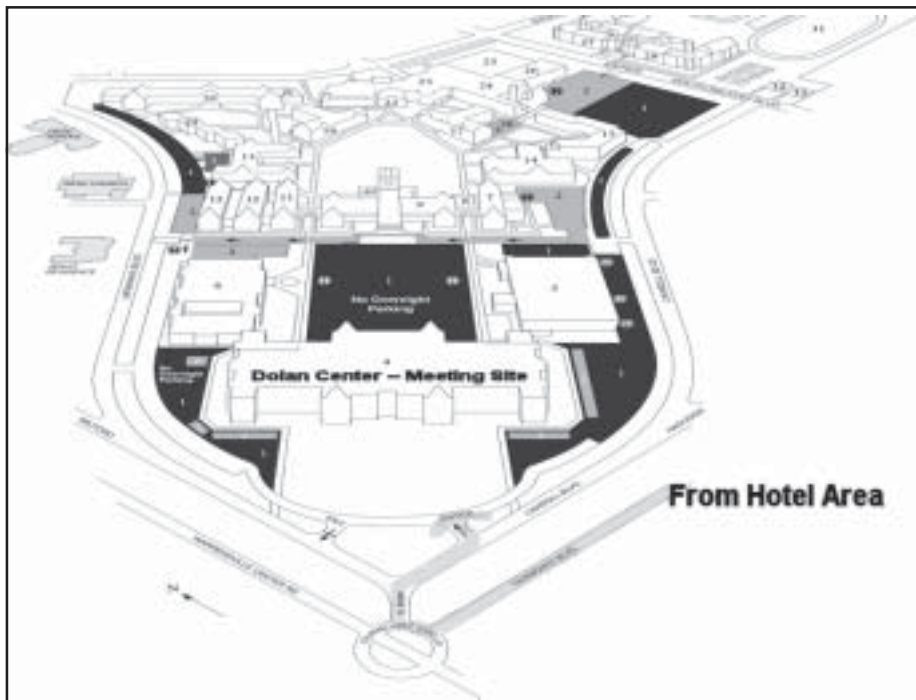
At press time no firm list of publishers who will display their wares at the meeting is available. Please encourage book reps to contact Barbara D'Ambrosia and take advantage of a captive audience.

There will certainly be MAA books on display, with an opportunity to buy books at a discount. Not only would you save money, but the Section would earn some too.

Banquet

The Friday evening banquet will be held in the Muldoon Atrium of the Dolan Center for Science and Technology. Cost of the banquet is \$21 for Chicken Marsala or \$16 for Stuffed Portobello Mushroom (vegetarian). Meals include salad, rice, vegetable, bread, dessert, and beverage.

Reservation deadline is October 15, 2004. Space is limited. There may be additional banquet tickets available on site, but this cannot be guaranteed.



John Carroll Campus Map

Fall Meeting Program

All activities will take place in the Dolan Center for Science and Technology

Friday October 22

Noon - 4:30	Registration, book exhibits	Muldoon Atrium
12:15-1:15	Committee Meetings: CONCUR CONSAC CONSTUM CONTEAL	E246 E211 E244A E244B
1:30-1:45	Welcome and Announcements	Donahue Aud.
1:45 - 2:45	Invited Address "Research in Integer Partitions - Alive and Well" James A. Sellers, Pennsylvania State Univ.	Donahue Aud.
2:45 - 3:15	Break and Refreshments	Muldoon Atr.
3:15 - 4:05	Invited Address "Pattern Busters" Thomas P. Dence, Ashland University, 2003 Ohio Section Teaching Award Winner	Donahue Aud.
4:15 - 5:30	Contributed Paper Sessions	E130, E134
4:15 - 5:50	Executive Committee Meeting	A202
6:00 - 6:30	Social Time with Cash Bar	Muldoon Atr.
6:30 - 7:45	Banquet	Muldoon Atr.
7:50 - 8:40	After-Dinner Address "More Than Just Convergence" James A. Sellers, Pennsylvania State Univ.	Donahue Aud.

Saturday, October 23

8:00 -10:30	Registration, book exhibits	Muldoon Atrium
8:00 - 8:50	Coffee and Doughnuts	Muldoon Atrium
8:05 - 8:45	Executive Committee meeting continuation (if necessary)	E244B
8:50 - 9:00	Announcements	Donahue Aud.
9:00 - 10:00	Invited Address "Big Graphs, Fast Walks, Loose Bounds" Elizabeth Wilmer, Oberlin College	Donahue Aud.
10:00 - 10:30	Break and Refreshments	Muldoon Atrium
10:30 - 11:25	Contributed Paper Sessions	E130, E134
11:40 - 12:40	Invited Address "Six Easy Pieces-or How I Came to be an Applier of Mathematics, with Half a Dozen Short Short Stories" Edward Spitznagel, Washington Univ.	Donahue Aud.
12:40	Closing Remarks	Donahue Aud.

Check the web page for updates, online registration, and paper submission (www.maa.org/Ohio)

James A. Sellers "Research in Integer Partitions - Alive and Well"

Since my early days of graduate school, I have been fascinated by integer partitions. As with many other areas of mathematics, partition theory provides a number of easily-phrased questions (that elementary school students can understand) whose answers are either deep or (currently) non-existent. In this talk, I will gently introduce you to the basics of the subject and discuss some of the people who have inspired research in the field over the last several years. I will also prove some well-known partition-theoretic results, including Euler's famous result that the number of partitions of an integer n into odd parts equals the number of partitions of n into distinct parts. This result is approximately 250 years old, but is by no means "dead". I will demonstrate some results related to this one which have arisen quite recently (within the last year). My hope is that all will find this talk refreshing and that some will be spurred on to future studies in partitions.

"More Than Just Convergence"

What do geometric and telescoping infinite series have in common? For many of us, they are the only two examples of convergent infinite series that we show our students whose sums can be computed exactly. This often leads students to a form of disillusionment about the subject, as the majority of the time spent in the calculus class then only revolves around the question of convergence or divergence (and exact values of series are completely ignored).

In this talk, I will argue that a wider variety of examples of convergent series should be discussed in our classes, with the goal of demonstrating to students that there are many other convergent infinite series whose exact sums can be determined in a relatively straightforward manner. Along the way, we will reminisce about work performed in this area in the late 17th and early 18th centuries by the Bernoullis and Euler (to name a few). All of the mathematics utilized will be quite accessible, and hopefully many of us will be challenged to look at this oft-overlooked subject a little more closely. (Of course, by the time I give this talk, it will be late in the evening, so I will try to keep it as light-hearted as possible!)



James A. Sellers is currently the Director of Undergraduate Mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University. Before accepting this position he served for nine years as a math

professor at Cedarville University in Ohio. Prior to going to Cedarville he received his Ph.D. in mathematics in 1992 from Penn State under the direction of David Bressoud.

James loves to teach mathematics to undergraduates and perform research with them. His main mathematical interests include enumerative combinatorics and number theory, especially as they relate to the theory of partitions. James has also been heavily involved in serving the mathematical community through the MAA and Project NExT. He served as chair of CONTEAC and CONSTUM (not simultaneously!), and has delivered talks at both section and national Project NExT events,

sectional MAA meetings, and numerous departmental colloquia and student groups.

James truly enjoys spending time with his wife Mary (also an alumnus of Penn State) and their five children. He agrees with Euler that mathematics can often be enjoyed and discovered with a child in his arms or playing round his feet.

Thomas P. Dence **"Pattern Busters"**

There are times when you're working on a mathematics problem, and, after you examine several individual cases, you notice a pattern has developed in the form of the solution. So then you suspect this pattern continues into the general form of the solution. How often have you been right? I'll show you some interesting circumstances where you'd be wrong!



Thomas P. Dence is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He received his B.S.Ed at Bowling Green where his mathematical interests were sparked and nurtured by Prof. Fred Leetch (a past

chair of the Ohio Section). He then moved on to the University of Colorado, and amidst the hippie revolution and flower power, he received his M.A. degree. Moving up the road to Colorado State, Tom received his Ph.D. in classical analysis under Prof. Richard Darst. A post-doctoral fellowship at New Mexico State, followed by professional appointments at Bowling Green, California State/Los Angeles, Southern Utah, University of Georgia, and Ashland University since 1984 round out his teaching positions.

Professionally, Tom has conducted summer teacher workshops, taught weekend classes to talented youngsters in the county enrichment program, served as coach for the junior high Math Counts team, initiated Ashland University's student chapter of MAA, organized numerous groups of A.U. students to speak at Spring Section meetings, was department chair for 9 years, authored 4 books and 30 papers. He has served the Ohio Section as a member of CONCUR, CONSACT, and as the Public Information Officer.

Tom's wife Kathleen works in Human Services at Firelands Hospital in Sandusky; youngest son Dan is a high school senior shopping around for some expensive college for Dad to send him to; middle son Paul has been admitted to the radiologic technology program offered at Bowling Green's branch campus at Firelands; and eldest son Robert is a junior engineering major at University of Dayton, and can be found flinging Flyer footballs each Saturday in the Fall.

Tom's Erdos number is 2.

Elizabeth Wilmer **"Big Graphs, Fast Walks, Loose Bounds"**

It's easy to describe what a random walk on a graph is, and nearly as easy to show that (under some mild restrictions) random walks on graphs converge to stationary distributions. But how fast does that convergence happen for a particular random walk? Alas, that question is almost always difficult to answer precisely.

Random walks on extremely large graphs arise naturally in many areas---especially algorithms and statistical mechanics---and many techniques have been developed to get approximate answers. Often these loose bounds suffice to show that big random walks converge very quickly indeed. I'll discuss some of these methods, their applications, and their broader implications.



Elizabeth Wilmer has taught at Oberlin College for six years. She has three degrees from Harvard University, where she

was a student of Persi Diaconis.

Elizabeth first fell in love with mathematics at the Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics, and with combinatorics at the Budapest Semesters in Mathematics. She studies combinatorics and its connections with other mathematical areas, particularly probability. She has taught at the Mathematical Olympiad Training Program and the Summer Program for Women in Mathematics at George Washington University and written questions for the

American Regions Mathematics League competition and the Five College Mathematics Contest. Elizabeth was a Project NExT Fellow in 1998-99.

Elizabeth and her husband, Rob Calhoun, devote much of their free time to gardening and to renovating their 1890 Queen Anne.

Edward Spitznagel **"Six Easy Pieces -- or How I Came to Be an Applier of Mathematics, with Half a Dozen Short Short Stories."**

We tell our students that mathematics is good for so many different things. I firmly believe that this assertion is not just a pious fiction, and I will illustrate with six vignettes from my own career as a mathematician with a taste for applied problems. My vignettes are: 1) Landing a job with a postcard resume. 2) You haven't solved a problem until you've found the real source of error. 3) Saving a typist's eyesight with a Kronecker product. 4) Saving lives by terminating a \$200,000,000 product line. 5) Bayes' rule and paternity testing. 6) Pharmacokinetics and the battle of the antacids.



Edward Spitznagel received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1965. He served on the faculty of Northwestern University from 1965

to 1969. Since 1969 he has been on the faculty of Washington University, with a primary appointment in the Department of Mathematics. Since 1978 he has also held a joint appointment in the Division of Biostatistics in the Washington University School of Medicine. He has received eleven awards for teaching, including the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. He has authored two books and 189 papers in physics, group theory, mathematical modeling, statistics, and medicine.

Directions to John Carroll University

From the West (via I-80):

Take I-480 east to I-271. Follow I-271 north to Chagrin Blvd. (Exit # 29). Follow the directions below ("From the South") to get to campus.

From the East (via I-80 or I-76):

Take I-480 west to I-271. Follow I-271 north to Chagrin Blvd. (Exit # 29), and follow the directions below ("From the South") to get to campus.

From the East (via I-90):

Take I-271 south to Chagrin Blvd. (Exit # 29). Turn right (west) on Chagrin Blvd. to Richmond Rd. Turn right (north) on Richmond Rd. to Fairmount Blvd. Turn left (west) on Fairmount Blvd. to traffic circle at Warrensville Center Rd. Turn right on the traffic circle to the first street (North Park Blvd.). The campus will be directly in front of you. Veer right to the main entrance.

From the South (via I-77 or I-71):

Take I-271 north to Chagrin Blvd. (Exit # 29). Turn left (west) on Chagrin Blvd. to Richmond Rd. Turn right (north) on Richmond Rd. to Fairmount Blvd. Turn left (west) on Fairmount Blvd. to traffic circle at Warrensville Center Rd. Turn right on the traffic circle to the first street (North Park Blvd.). The campus will be directly in front of you. Veer right to the main entrance.

From the Greater Cleveland Area:

The JCU Campus is located in suburban University Heights, near the intersection of Fairmount Boulevard and Warrensville Center Road. It is approximately 12 miles east of Public Square and four miles east of University Circle. For suggested routes to the campus from various points in Greater Cleveland and environs, see the local arrangements web page at <http://www.jcu.edu/math/maa/index.htm>.

Parking

Parking may be somewhat scarce in the early afternoon on Friday. If you do not need to attend a committee meeting, it might be wise to time your arrival for shortly before the program begins.

When you arrive on campus, ask the gate guard for a visitor permit, and park in any available space around the Dolan Center. If you cannot find a parking space on campus, you may be able to find on-street parking within several blocks of campus. If you have to resort to this, please be sure to look for signs restricting parking times, as the local police are vigilant about ticketing illegally parked cars. For up-to-date parking information, check the local arrangements web page at <http://www.jcu.edu/math/maa/index.htm>.

Where to Stay

The hotels listed below are all located on Orange Place, just east of the intersection of Interstate 271 and Chagrin Blvd. (Exit 29) in the City of Beachwood, about 4 miles from John Carroll University. Before reserving your room, however, you may wish to check the internet for better rates at these or other hotels in the area.

The numbers next to the hotels below correspond to the locations on the hotel map.

Holiday Inn Beachwood (1)
Phone 216-910-1100
\$82.00 for 2 double beds or 1 king
Reserve by Oct. 8
Mention Group Code: MAA

Homestead Studio Suites (2)
Phone 216-896-5555
\$69.99 for queen studio
\$79.99 for king
\$89.99 for 2 queen beds
No group code necessary

Courtyard by Marriott (3)
Phone 216-765-1900
\$89.00 for 2 double beds or 1 king
Reserve by Sept. 24
Mention John Carroll University

Super 8 (4)
Phone 216-831-7200
\$37.49 for double room
Mention Group Code: MAA

Other hotels in this same area, with no rooms blocked for the meeting, are listed below. These hotels are all located either on Orange Place or Park East Dr., which is off Chagrin Blvd., just west of I-271. They are listed roughly in increasing order of cost.

Clarion (216-831-5150)

Extended Stay America (216-595-9551)

Residence Inn (216-831-3030)

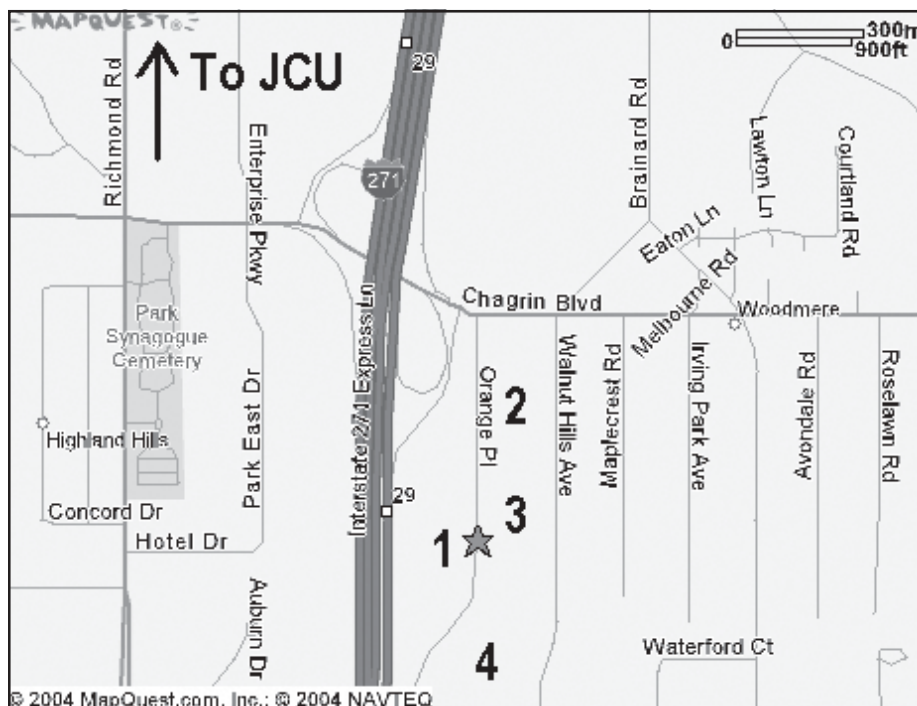
Hampton Inn & Suites (216-831-3735)

Hilton (216-464-5950)

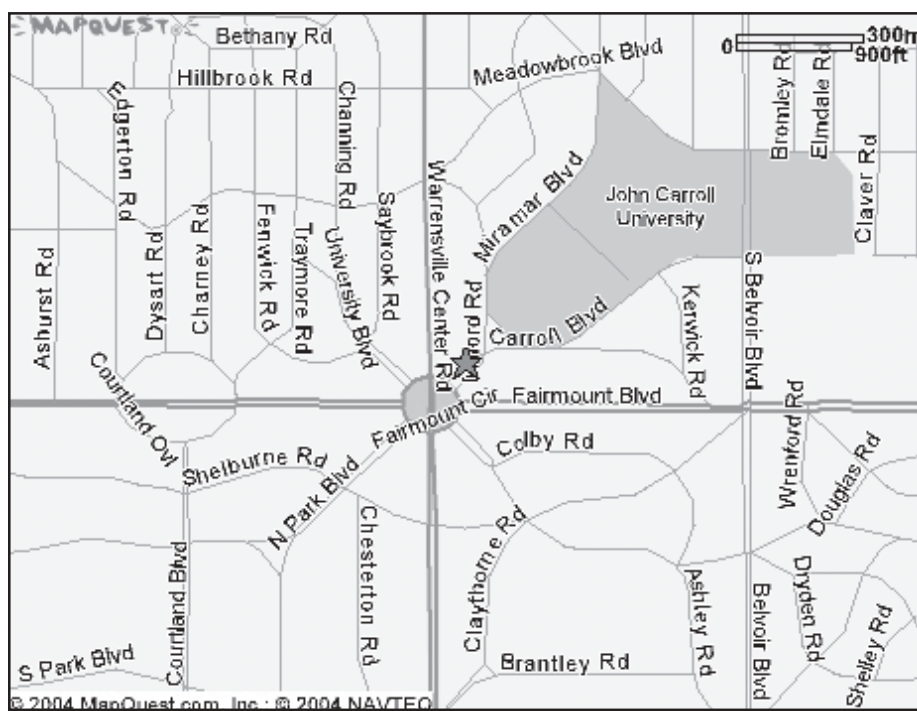
Embassy Suites (216-765-8066)

Local Contact at John Carroll University

Contact Barbara D'Ambrosia with your local arrangements questions, bdambrosia@jcu.edu, 216-397-4682.



Hotel Locations



Map of the Campus Area

Call for Contributed Papers

Fifteen-minute presentations on any topic of general interest in mathematics or related areas are solicited for the Contributed Paper Sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the fall Ohio Section meeting. Reports on projects, research announcements, or anything you believe

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Meeting Registration

Online registration is preferred; see the meeting web page at www.maa.org/Ohio. Deadline for online registration is October 15.

On-site registration is always available, but last minute banquet tickets cannot be guaranteed. Early registration helps those

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About John Carroll University

John Carroll University is one of 28 colleges and universities operated in the United States by the Society of Jesus. It was founded as St. Ignatius College in 1886 and has been in continuous operation as a degree-granting institution since that time. In 1923 it was renamed John Carroll University, after the first archbishop of the Catholic Church in the United States. In 1935 it was moved from its original location on the West Side of Cleveland to its present site in University Heights. Originally an all-male institution, it became fully coeducational in 1968.

A faculty of approximately 260 maintains the university's three major academic divisions: the College of Arts and Sciences, the Boler School of Business, and the Graduate School. Enrollment ranges from 3800 to 4200 students. The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science offers four undergraduate degrees: a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Computer Information Systems, and a Bachelor of Arts in teaching mathematics; and two graduate degrees: a Master of Science in mathematics and a Master of Arts in mathematics, the latter designed for secondary mathematics teachers. It also offers minors in mathematics, computer science and in probability and statistics. This past year the department awarded 27 bachelor's degrees and 4 master's degrees.

The department presently consists of 19 full-time members, 5 part-time members and 7 graduate assistants. Although scholarship and research are valued activities at JCU, all members of the department place primary emphasis on teaching. Three department members have won the college-wide Lucrezia Culicchia Award for Excellence in Teaching--more than any other department on campus--and two department members have received the Ohio Section's award for Distinguished College or University Teaching.

The department is pleased to welcome you to John Carroll for the Fall Meeting of the Ohio Section.

Calendar

Ohio Section

Fall Section Meeting, October 22-23, 2004, John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH. (University Heights)

Spring Section Meeting, April 1-2, 2005, Miami University, Oxford, OH.

Fall Section Meeting, October 21-22, 2005, Ashland University, Ashland, OH.

Ohio Section Short Course, June 27-29, 2005, John Carroll University, Cleveland, OH. (University Heights)

National MAA-AMS

Annual Joint Meetings, January 5-8, 2005, Atlanta, GA.

MathFest, August 4-6, 2005, Albuquerque, NM.

Annual Joint Meetings, January 12-15, 2006, San Antonio, TX.

MathFest, August 10-12, 2006, Knoxville, TN.

Annual Joint Meetings, January 4-7, 2007, New Orleans, LA.

MathFest, August 3-5, 2007, San Jose, CA.

Annual MAA-AMS Joint Meetings, January 6-9, 2008, San Diego, CA.

MathFest, July 31-August 2, 2008, Madison, WI.

Annual MAA-AMS Joint Meetings, January 7-10, 2009, Washington DC.

Other

OCTM, October 14-16, 2004, Akron, OH.

Tri-State Meeting of Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky Sections, November 5-6, 2004, University of Evansville, Evansville, IN.

AMATYC Annual Conference, November 18-21, 2004, Orlando, FL.

Indiana Section, April 1-2, 2005, Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne.

Allegheny Mountain Section, April 1-2, 2005, at Slippery Rock Univ., PA.

Kentucky Section, April 1-2, 2005, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY.

NCTM Annual Meeting, April 6-9, 2005, Anaheim, CA.

Michigan Section, April 29-30, 2005, Alma College, Alma, MI.

State Science Day, May 7, 2005, Ohio State.

OCTM Conference, October 6-8, 2005, Dayton Convention Center, Dayton OH.

AMATYC Annual Conference, November 10-13, 2005, San Diego, CA.

Indiana Section, Fall 2005, Depauw University, Greencastle, IN.

Allegheny Mountain Section, April 7-8, 2006, Juniata College, Huntingdon, PA

Complimentary copies of this newsletter are being distributed to people who would be interested in Ohio Section activities. By joining the MAA, you will get your own copy of the newsletter. If you are not an MAA member, look at the web page: www.maa.org/mbsvcs/individual.html. MAA Departmental Liaisons also have membership information.



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