



OHIO FOCUS

The MAA Ohio Section Newsletter

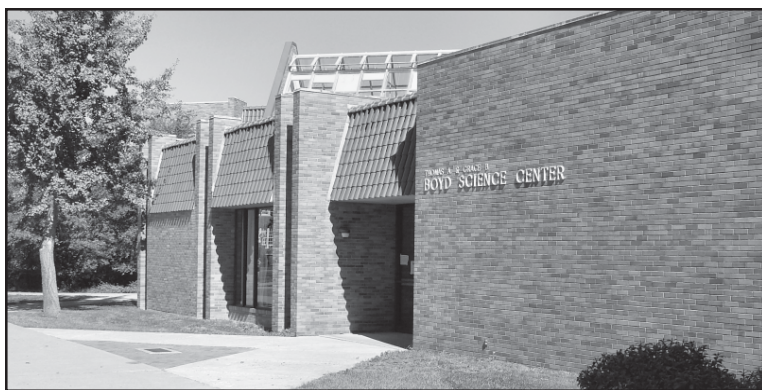
Volume 8

Fall 2006

Number 3

Fall Meeting at Muskingum College October 27-28, 2006

The Fall Meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held at Muskingum College, New Concord, Ohio, on October 27-28, 2006. The meeting will start at noon on Friday in the Boyd Science Center, with the first invited address at 1:30, and will conclude at 12:40 pm on Saturday. Major addresses will be given by invited speakers **David Singer** of Case-Western Reserve University, **Curtis Bennett** of Loyola Marymount University, and **Bernd Sturmfels** of University of California, Berkeley. The meeting will also include a panel discussion on the future of the entire college-level mathematics curriculum. Meeting participants are encouraged to submit talks for the contributed paper sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Publishers' exhibits and a Friday evening banquet are also being planned.



Boyd Science Center

Meeting Registration

Online registration is preferred. Visit the Section web site at www.maa.org/Ohio for one-stop registration, banquet reservation, and abstract submission. The deadline for meeting pre-registration and banquet reservations is **October 20**. Abstracts for contributed papers must be submitted by **October 13**.

On-site meeting registration is always available, but last-minute banquet tickets cannot be guaranteed. Early registration helps those making the meeting arrangements and is always appreciated. The on-site registration will be in the lobby of Boyd Science Center on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. The lobby is on the

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Ohio Project NExT Fall Workshop

Ohio Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a program for young 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.

On Thursday evening, October 26, the night preceding the Ohio Section Fall Meeting, members of Ohio Project NExT will gather for a banquet. 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.

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President's Message

Greetings to all! As I begin my year as your Section President let me tell you how honored I am to hold this office – I truly follow in the footsteps of a large number of Ohio giants in mathematics.

Those of you who attended the recent Spring meeting were treated to a first-class show. The organizers at the University of Akron did a fine job of having everything in place. The student turnout of approximately 105 was justification that we, as mathematics teachers, are doing a lot of

things right as we instruct our students in the art of mathematics. We were fortunate to have had several guests deliver excellent invited talks. I was especially enthralled by the biographical presentations “Ladies of the Rings” by Georgia Benkart, and the applied presentation “Bicycle Tracks on the Plane and the Sphere” by David Finn. Another highlight was the after dinner talk by Tom Price on “Developing an Undergraduate Research Program.” What a fantastic presentation! No wonder he was named the Section’s Distinguished Teacher this year.

The Spring meeting also marked the end of service appointments for several dominant figures in our Section’s history. Most notably, Bill Friel, who’s been around since time t , finished his term as Section Treasurer, to be replaced by Chuck Hampton; Tom Price stepped down as Webmaster, to be replaced by Darren Wick; and Tom Hern finished his term as Section Governor, being replaced by Judy Palagallo. Tom Price also stepped down as the person in charge of on-line registration at our Section meetings, being replaced by Jay Kerns. We owe a HUGE thanks to these three class act Ohio mathematicians.

You may wish to know that at the recent MathFest in Knoxville the Ohio Section was well represented, as approximately half of our officers were in attendance. All of the sections were urged to (1) continue the progress of writing up their section’s history, so this would be available for the centennial; and (2) revisit and make modifications in their section’s bylaws, and continue this on an every 10-



year basis. Congratulations again to Chris Swanson, of Ashland University, for receiving the Henry Alder award for distinguished teaching. Chris is the first Ohio recipient of the award, which is given to those successful teachers whose influence extends beyond the classroom. This is in spite of the fact that Chris marches around the halls of Ashland during the third week of each November wearing his Michigan BLUE!

The Ohio Section was fortunate to have had another successful summer short course. James Albert, from Bowling Green, taught his ever-so-popular class on “Baseball, Statistics, and the Role of Chance in the Game” at Mount Union College. Stay tuned for information about next year’s program.

Project NEXt has an interesting program throughout the country where relatively new Project NEXt fellows are paired up with current faculty, known as Project Consultants, and the consultants are to serve for a year as a sort of mentor, offering friendly and helpful advice when needed. Five such pairs exist within the Ohio Section, where the consultants are Tom Dence from Ashland, Richard Little from Baldwin Wallace, Bill Higgins from Wittenberg, Sarah-Marie Belcastro from Xavier, and Robin Lock from St. Lawrence University. This is a really neat idea that offers lots of intangible benefits, so the Section would like to encourage all new faculty in Ohio to participate in Project NEXt. Incidentally, Bill Higgins was a consultant a few years ago for Chris Swanson when Chris was a new fellow.

As you probably know, the Section awards a Teaching Award each spring, and the recipient is then nominated for a national award. The two most recent winners are Tom Price from Akron, and David Singer from Case. So if any of you would like to nominate one of your colleagues you must do it this Fall. The nominator does have to fill out some paperwork to do this, but then he/she gets recognized for their efforts. Check with Dwight Olson at John Carroll University for further details.

The Section is in excellent shape for obtaining institutions to host future meet-

ings. Shawnee State, Wittenberg, Marietta, Capital, Bowling Green, Baldwin-Wallace, and Kent State have graciously agreed to accommodate us after we conclude business this Fall at Muskingum. We thank these departments very much, for it’s nice to know we have a home for the next four years.

In closing I have to tell you that the Executive Committee has decided to streamline costs by going to an on-line Section newsletter, starting next Fall, 2007. We will continue to have paper copies of the newsletter this year, and that includes the Spring 2007 edition. We understand that many like to have a paper copy in their hands, but you’ll just have to print it off the computer next year. The dollar savings for the Section is quite significant, and we felt this extra money could be better utilized in other ways.

Hope you can make it to Muskingum on October 27-28.

*Thomas Dence
Ashland University
Section President*

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, 2007
Email copy is preferred. Early submission is appreciated.

Please send copy to the editor (see above), and also to the Section Webmaster, Darren Wick, for posting on the web (dwick@ashland.edu).

Section Governor's Report

In July, I became the Ohio Section Governor, following Tom Hern who served in this position for the last three years. I am sure that I speak for all of us in thanking Tom for his diligent Section work, not only as Governor but for the many ways that he has served the Section. I trust that Tom will continue to remind all of us of our duties and keep us on schedule.

I have just returned from MathFest 2006 in Knoxville where I attended the MAA Board of Governors meeting. We received a report that the MAA continues to be in excellent financial condition. The MAA received a large donation from Paul and Virginia Halmos to establish a Mathematical Sciences Conference Center in Washington, DC. The Association has restored to its former charm the exterior of its historic carriage house, one of the three buildings in the MAA complex in the Dupont Circle district. The Carriage House is completely renovated with ample space for mathematicians to meet in smaller groups or to work individually. The first meeting was held at the Carriage House in September. The building will be available for MAA meetings of all types. The MAA also intends to rent out meeting space for agencies in the Washington area.

The Executive Committee of the MAA works on strategic planning for the MAA in cycles. One of the 2006-07 Strategic Planning Groups is concentrating on student issues. The MAA has a nationwide program of student chapters, but no national or regional organizations of chapters. In addition, there is a great need for general program and career information for students on the website and general resources for faculty and students. The budget for 2007 contains a new position of Associate Director for Student Activities to direct such efforts.

The year 2007 will mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Euler. The MAA will celebrate the "Year of Euler" with a

study tour in Switzerland, Russia and Germany. Look for other events at the section and national levels to celebrate this historic mathematician.



Our Section is proud to have a 2006 Henry L. Alder Award winner. Chris Swanson of Ashland University was awarded this prize for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Mathematics Faculty Member. Chris is one of only three chosen in the US. He has already made many contributions to the Section and we congratulate him on this well-deserved award.

Project NExT introduced eighty-four faculty fellows for 2006-2007. Four of the new members are now teaching in Ohio: Arthur Busch at University of Dayton, Frank Ingram at YSU, Adam Parker at Wittenberg, and Kevin Woods at Oberlin. We welcome them to Ohio and look for their active participation in Section activities.

At MathFest this year, students from Ohio presented twenty-one talks. This is certainly the result of the opportunities given to our students to attend and to make presentations at our Section meetings. When I saw all the students and NExTers attending MathFest, I was reminded that the future of the mathematical community looks exciting and fresh.

I would encourage all of you to visit MAA Online, at www.maa.org. It contains news about current events in mathematics, information on upcoming meetings, a list of the MAA committees, and MAA Reviews of new books in the world of mathematics. I also urge you to continue seeking ways to participate in the Section activities. Tom Dence welcomes your input and your help on various committees. Dates and locations for several future meetings are listed on the back of this newsletter. Plan ahead to attend the meetings and invite colleagues and students to join you.

Judy Palagallo
Section Governor

Thomas Price wins Ohio Section Teaching Award

The 2006 Ohio Section *Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics* has been awarded to Professor Thomas E. Price from the University of Akron. The award was presented to Tom by incoming Section President Thomas



Dence on March 31, 2006, at the Spring Section Meeting.

Tom Price has taught mathematics for over thirty years, to hundreds of students along the way. He has taught well over two dozen dif-

ferent mathematics courses ranging from developmental to graduate level.

Tom's colleagues commented that they have learned much from him, as he has always been willing to share his teaching insights, ideas, techniques, notes, and student projects. Tom's students attest to his outstanding teaching in and beyond the classroom, his caring demeanor, and his strong encouragement to them to keep moving ahead with their studies of mathematics.

Tom has been a pioneer in using computing and technology in the teaching of mathematics, in a variety of different courses and formats. At the same time, he's kept his love for theoretical mathematics, for example, by teaching *Topics in Topology* using the Moore Method.

Tom has been previously honored as an outstanding teacher. He is a recipient of the *Buchtel College of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award*, the *University of Akron Outstanding Teaching Award*, and the *Northeast Ohio Council of Higher Education Award for Teaching Excellence*.

2006 - 2007 Ohio Section Leadership

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

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OhioMATYC Liaison to OhioMAA

Jim Anderson, University of Toledo
(see next column)

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OMSC Liaison

Marsha Guntharp, Capital University
614-236-6262; mgunthar@capital.edu

Archivist

John Zimmerman, Washington &
Jefferson College
724-250-3322
jzimmerman@washjeff.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 meeting of the year listed. See the Bylaws.

Program Committee

* Barbara D'Ambrosia, John Carroll 2007
216-397-4682; bdambrosia@jcu.edu
Don Hunt, Ohio Northern 2008
Jon Stadler, Capital University 2009

Committee on Curriculum (CONCUR)

*Michelle Wiggins, Ursuline Coll 2006
Roger Marty, Cleveland State 2007
Cathy Stoffer, Ashland Univ. 2007
Darren Parker, Univ. of Dayton 2008
Maria Raiti, Ohio Northern Univ 2009
Adam Parker, Wittenberg Univ 2009

Committee on Section Activities (CONSACT)

* Lisa Rome, Mount Saint Joseph 2008
Juan Bes, Bowling Green 2007
Danny Otero, Xavier University 2007
Phil Blau, Shawnee State Univ. 2008
Judith Holdener, Kenyon College 2009

Committee on Student Members (CONSTUM)

* Stephanie Edwards, U. Dayton 2008
Chris Swanson, Ashland Univ. 2007
(see next column)

Jeffrey Adler, University of Akron 2008
Mihai Caragiu, Ohio Northern 2008
Noah Aydin, Kenyon College 2009

Committee on Teacher Education and Certification/Licensure (CONTEAL)

* Marsha Guntharp, Capital U 2008
Susan Thompson, Otterbein Coll 2008
John Prather, Ohio Univ. Eastern 2008
Chris O'Connor, Shawnee State 2008
Jim Fitzsimmons, Wilmington Col 2008
Irina Chernikova, Univ. Akron 2009
Jon Dunlop, Wright State Univ. 2009

OTHER COMMITTEES

* Denotes committee chair.

Nominating Committee

* Dale Mugler, Univ. of Akron 2008
Harold Putt, Ohio Northern 2007
Mark Smith, Miami University 2009

Committee on Contests

David Stenson, John Carroll AMC12

Teaching Award Committee

* Dwight Olson, John Carroll Univ.(PP)
J. William Friel, Univ. of Dayton (ST)
David Singer, Case-Western Reserve University (Past recipient)

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Fall 2006 (October 27-28)
Muskingum College

Rich Daquila
rdaquila@muskingum.edu

Spring 2007 (April 13-14)
Shawnee State University

Phil Blau
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Fall 2007 (October 19-20)
Wittenberg University

Brian Shelburne
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Spring 2008
Marietta College

Mark Miller
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Fall 2008: Capital University
Spring 2009: Bowling Green
Fall 2009: Baldwin-Wallace
Spring 2010: Kent State

Campus Notes

Bowling Green State University has added two new faculty, Maria Rizzo (Actuarial Science & Probability) and Wei Ning (Statistics). Also, Dr. Wolf Iberkleid (Universidad Mayor de San Andres) is visiting us for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 AY. **Warren McGovern** and **Juan Bes** were promoted to Associate Professor, and Corneliu Hoffman is on leave at the University of Birmingham, UK.

Cleveland State University welcomes new faculty members **Thomas Jaki**, **Ivan Soprunov** and **Yuping Wu**, and congratulates **Woody Silliman** for his retirement. **Peter Bubenic** and **Allan Sielberger** will be on professional leave for one semester, while **John Holcomb** will be on professional leave for the full year.

College of Wooster: Professor **John R. Ramsay** has been named Chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department at The College of Wooster. He has been at Wooster since 1987 and is the founder and director of the AMRE (Applied Math Research Experience) summer program, which has just celebrated ten years of success.

Denison University: **Daniel D. Bonar**, George R. Stibitz Distinguished Professor of Mathematics, and **Michael J. Khoury**, 2003 graduate of Denison University and Ph.D. candidate at The Ohio State University, are co-authors of the book entitled *Real Infinite Series*, published by the MAA in January 2006.

John Carroll University: Three faculty members have left John Carroll for other positions: **Todd Edwards** is now at Miami University in mathematics education; **Jason Howald** is at SUNY Potsdam; and **Pamela Richardson** has left for Westminster College.

Marshall University has hired four new faculty on visiting appointments: **Joel Better**, who works in topological fixed-point theory, has his PhD from UCLA; **Rob-Roy Mace** and **Shannon Miller** have masters degrees from Marshall; and **Andrew Przeworski**, who works in hyperbolic geometry and low-dimensional topology, has his PhD from University of Chicago. **John Lancaster** has retired after 34 years at Marshall and one year at Hilo, Hawaii. **Clayton Brooks** and **Peter Saveliev** have been awarded tenure, and **Scott Sarra** has been promoted to associ-

ate professor. **Scott Sarra** has been awarded an NSF Research Grant in Computational Mathematics for three years. **Bonita Lawrence** and **Clayton Brooks** are working with students to build a differential analyzer at Marshall. **Bonita Lawrence** spent a day as an extra during the filming of "We Are Marshall," which was on-location here for three weeks this spring. She reports that she was "this close" to Matthew McConaughey. Our department has begun a newsletter for alumni: "AfterMath." It has six pages, and its email address is aftermath@marshall.edu.

Miami University welcomes new research faculty in mathematics and statistics: **Virginia Gray** recently earned her Ph.D. in mathematics education from Oregon State University. Virginia comes to Miami from Southern Oregon University, where she held a tenured position; her research area is mathematics education. **Tetsuya Ishiu** earned his Ph.D. degree in mathematics at the University of California, Irvine in 2003, and then spent the past three years on a post-doc position at the University of Kansas; his research area is set theory. **Doug Noe** recently earned his Ph.D. degree in statistics at the University of Illinois. His research area concerns statistical aspects of data mining, modeling and visualization. New visiting faculty are **Manley Perkel** (Distinguished Visiting Professor) from Wright State University, where he recently completed a five-year term as chair of the department; **Dan Farley**, who earned his Ph.D. in mathematics at SUNY Binghamton and then held post-doc positions at Penn State, the University of Illinois, the University of Muenster, and the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics; **Ilya Shvartsman**, who earned his Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Wayne State University and then held post-doc positions at Imperial College, London, and the University of Bath in the UK.

Mount Vernon Nazarene University: Professor **Jeremy Strayer** of Mount Vernon Nazarene University wanted to encourage more interaction between faculty and students outside the classroom, and came up with the idea of offering to make students lattes on Friday afternoons. In February the MVNU Math Latte Hour was born. Every Friday afternoon at 3:00, between 6 and 12 students and faculty gathered in the math offices for lattes, games, discussion of problems from *Math Horizons* and other

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Call for Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations

The Ohio Section Teaching Award Committee asks that you consider nominating a worthy colleague for the 2007 *Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching*. A suitable candidate would be a member of the MAA-Ohio Section with at least five years of college-level teaching experience, who is recognized as being an exceptional teacher.

To make a nomination you would need to complete a one-page nomination form, to write a description of why you have chosen the particular individual to nominate and to solicit some recommendations from former students and colleagues of the nominee. Forms and other information are available at <http://www.maa.org/ohio> under "Events."

The award will be announced at the Spring 2007 meeting, and appropriate publicity will be generated at the award winner's institution. The Award Committee will ALSO forward the winner's file to the national MAA office to be the Section's candidate for the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Three award winners are selected each year from the nominees from the sections. Past winners from the Ohio Section have been **Aparna Higgins**, University of Dayton (2005) and **V. Frederick Rickey**, Bowling Green State University (1993).

The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2007. Please address inquiries or nominations to the Committee chair: D. M. Olson, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio 44118 (216-397-4372 or olson@jcu.edu).

Campus Notes

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MAA publications, and other mathematical diversions. Professor Strayer generously volunteered to man the latte machine for most of the hour. The students in the group eventually solidified and decided to seek, and were granted, official recognition as the MVNU math club. This official recognition will give the club a small budget with which they will be able to fund future lattes and the occasional biscotti.

Sinclair Community College: **Kay Cornelius** has been promoted to Professor, and **Ed Gallo** and **Marie Stroh** have been promoted to Associate Professor effective fall 2006. **Gwen English** retired at the end of winter quarter 2006, and **Earl King** retired at the end of spring quarter 2006. **Kinga Oliver** has been hired as an Annually Contracted Faculty beginning in fall 2006. The Math Department began participating in "Achieving the Dream," a multiyear national initiative sponsored by the Lumina Foundation to help more community college students succeed in entry level courses. The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that traditionally have faced significant barriers to success.

The University of Akron welcomes two new tenure-track/tenured faculty in mathematics this year. **Laurie Dunlap**, whose position is joint with the College of Education, received a doctorate in mathematics and education at the University of Cincinnati. Her primary research interest is making mathematics an accessible, validating, powerful, and enjoyable tool for the average student. The new chair, **Joe Wilder**, came to Akron from the Department of Energy. He previously worked at West Virginia University. The Department of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics bid sad goodbyes to retirees **Judith Palagallo**, **Tom**

Price, and **Donald Story**. Dr. Palagallo is the Ohio MAA Section Governor. Tom Price received the 2006 Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Dr. Story and his family have moved to Florida. All three now have Emeritus status.

University of Dayton: **Arthur (Art) Busch** has joined the Department of Mathematics as Assistant Professor. Art earned his PhD in graph theory from the University of Colorado at Denver. Before coming to Dayton, he spent one year on a post-doc position at Lehigh University.

University of Findlay: **Pamela Warton** has joined the faculty as an associate professor. Dr. Warton received her PhD from Bowling Green State University in 1997 in infinite ordered group theory and has recently taught at Siena Heights University. **Mahmoud Rawashdeh** is a new assistant professor. Dr. Rawashdeh received his PhD from the University of Toledo in 2006 in applied differential geometry.

Wittenberg University: **Adam Parker** was awarded the 2006 Edith B. and Frank C. Matthies Award by Wittenberg University. This award is intended to "further the education of selected and worthy teachers." Adam was recently selected as a national Project NExT fellow, and he will be using the Matthies award to help fund his participation in Project NExT.

Youngstown State University: Three new faculty members have been hired. They are **Frank Ingram** and **Paddy Taylor**, both from North Carolina State University, and **Joszi Jalics** from Ohio State University. **John Buoni**, **Richard Burden**, and **Doug Faires** have retired, but John Buoni has been brought temporarily out of retirement to serve as the chair of the department. **Angela Spalsbury** and **Jamal Tartir** were promoted to Associate Professor.

Ohio Project NExT Workshop

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Then, on Friday morning, October 27, our NExT Workshop will be held on the Muskingum College campus. The workshop will feature major speakers, along with contributed talks by NExT members. Prior to last Fall's meeting, the NExT workshop at Ashland University featured R. Stanton Hale (The College of Wooster), Barbara D'Ambrosia (John Carroll University), Mary Bergs (Mercy College of Northwest Ohio) and John Tynan (Marietta College). At the spring 2006 Ohio Project NExT meeting, we had workshops presented by Judy Palagallo (Akron), David Finn (Rose-Hulman) and a talk by Noah Aydin (Kenyon).

Ohio Project NExT is open to anyone in the Ohio Section who is in his/her first five years of teaching. If you're in this group, please consider joining us this fall for our NExT Banquet and Workshop, as well as the Ohio Section Meeting that follows.

Contact Dale Mugler (dmugler@uakron.edu) for membership information and details.

Ohio Project NExT is coordinated by Wiebke Diestelkamp, University of Dayton (Wiebke.Diestelkamp@notes.udayton.edu), Dale Mugler, University of Akron (dmugler@uakron.edu), and Chris Swanson, Ashland University (cswanson@ashland.edu).

Chris Swanson Wins MAA's Alder Award

Christopher Swanson, of Ashland University, is one of three recent recipients of the MAA's *Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Beginning College or University Faculty Member*. The award was presented at the MAA's MathFest in August. The Alder Award is given to honor junior faculty whose teaching has been extraordinarily successful, and whose effectiveness in teaching undergraduate mathematics has influence beyond the classroom.

Chris is an Associate Professor who is just beginning his eighth year of teaching at Ashland. In the award presentation he was cited for "motivating his students to perform at their best by being a role model for them. His enthusiasm for the study of mathematics, his willingness to work hard, and his obvious caring for all his students are readily recognized and appreciated by students. While meticulously preparing for all classes, his teaching style is versatile and student-centered. He has created new courses, and he has introduced the Ashland



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Ohio Section Student Team Competition Results

University students to the Putnam Competition and to Pi Mu Epsilon. Despite a four-course teaching load each semester, he has directed four Honors theses, two of which received awards, and he has had the thesis writers present their work at conferences.”

Chris is a graduate of Denison University, and received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. His research interests are combinatorics and probability. Chris was an invited speaker at the Spring 2005 meeting of the Ohio Section. He currently serves on CONSTUM, and is co-chair of Ohio NEXt.

New Section Officers

Congratulations to the new officers of the Ohio Section who were elected at the spring Section meeting on March 31, 2006. **Bill Higgins**, of Wittenberg University, was elected to the position of President-Elect. He will assume the role of Section President after the Spring, 2007, Section meeting.

Elected to the position of Treasurer-Elect was **Charles (Chuck) Hampton**, of The College of Wooster. The position of Treasurer is new in the Ohio Section, and is a result of an amendment to the Section By-Laws which splits the duties of the former position of Secretary-Treasurer. Half of those duties are now being performed by **Mark De Saint-Rat** of Miami University-Middletown, who holds the office of Secretary. The duties of Treasurer are being performed this year on an interim basis by **Bill Friel**, who has held the post of Secretary-Treasurer for many years. Chuck will assume the duties of Treasurer after the spring, 2007, meeting.

Jon Stadler, of Capital University, was elected for a three-year term on the Program Committee. In his third year, the 2008-2009 academic year, Jon will become the chair of that committee, and will be responsible for the programs of the Section meetings during that year.

For more information on the leadership of the Ohio Section, see page 4 of this newsletter. The By-Laws of the section, which explain the terms and duties of elected offices, are available on the Section web site, at www.maa.org/Ohio.

The third annual Student Team Competition was held at The University of Akron on Friday, March 31, 2006, in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Ohio Section.

Seventy-eight students participated, forming 29 teams and representing 15 institutions. This represents a substantial increase over the previous year, when there were 9 teams, representing 6 institutions. Cash prizes of \$120, \$60 and \$45 were presented to the top three teams at the conclusion of the Section meeting.

This year's first-place team was from Ohio Wesleyan University: Stefan Natu, Thao Nguyen, and Diyan Iliev. Finishing in second place was the Kenyon College team: Lee Kennard, Laura Czarnecki, and Ben Johnson. The Youngstown State team, David Gohlke and David Martin, took third place.

It is not too soon to begin organizing and preparing a team for the 2007 competition, to be held at the spring Section meeting at Shawnee State University. Competition rules, as well as copies of past exams, can be found on the Ohio Section web site, www.maa.org/Ohio. CONSTUM is also planning other fun events for students at the spring meeting.

Many thanks go to the members of CONSTUM and others who helped with the 2006 competition: Jeff Adler, Chris Brown, Mihai Caragiu, John Davenport, Stephanie Edwards, Judith Holdener, Dale Mugler, Chris Swanson and Darren Wick.



Coming Up in Ohio

Student Conference at Youngstown State University

Youngstown State University will host the ninth annual YSU-PME Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conference on **Saturday, February 17, 2007**. The meeting gives undergraduate students the opportunity to present results of their projects and research, and to listen to topics that are of interest to other undergraduate students in the region. At last year's conference, there were 20 different colleges and universities represented by nearly 125 students and 35 faculty. For more information, please see <http://www.math.yzu.edu/pme/conferences/>

Spring 2007 Ohio Section Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Spring 2007 Ohio Section meeting at **Shawnee State University**, on **April 13-14**. The Program Committee is putting together a program that you and your students should not miss, including talks by Francis Edward Su and Tom Dence. Watch for complete details in the spring issue of *Ohio Focus*.

United States Conference on Teaching Statistics (USCOTS 07)

The second biennial United States Conference on Teaching Statistics will be held on **May 17-19, 2007** at the **Ohio State University** in Columbus, Ohio, hosted by CAUSE, the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education. The target audience for USCOTS is teachers of undergraduate and AP statistics, from any discipline or type of institution. Teachers from two-year colleges are particularly encouraged to attend. Leaders in statistics education will give plenary talks, including Jessica Utts, Paul Velleman, Dick DeVeaux, Allan Rossman, and Mike Shaughnessy. To register for USCOTS 07, visit <http://www.causeweb.org/uscots>. For more information, contact Deb Rumsey at rumsey@stat.ohio-state.edu.

Ohio Section Summer Short Course

The annual Summer Short Course will be held next summer at **Baldwin-Wallace College**. The topic will deal with using Java Applets in teaching, with speaker Joe Yanik from Emporia State University. Watch for more details at the Fall Meeting, and on the Ohio Section web site, www.maa.org/Ohio.

Fall Meeting Program

Registration and invited addresses will take place in the Boyd Science Center (BSC), building 3 on the map on page 11.

Friday, October 27

12:00—4:30	Registration	Lobby, BSC
1:00—4:30	Book exhibits	Lobby, BSC
12:15—1:15	Committee Meetings:	
	CONCUR	BSC 229
	CONSACT	BSC 305
	CONSTUM	BSC 338
	CONTEAL	BSC 219
1:30—1:45	Welcome & announcements	BSC 343
1:45—2:45	Invited Address: “Focusing on the Critical Points of Polynomials” David Singer, Case-Western Reserve University	BSC 343
2:45—3:15	Break & refreshments	Lobby, BSC
3:15—4:15	CONCUR Panel Discussion “Future of the Entire College- Level Math Curriculum” Moderator: Cathy Stoffer, Ashland University	BSC 343
4:25—6:00	Contributed Paper Sessions	BSC
4:25—6:00	Executive Committee meeting	BSC 338
6:00—6:30	Social time	Student/Faculty
6:30—7:45	Banquet	Center
7:50—8:30	After-Dinner Talk: “Understanding the Thurston Model of Hyperbolic Space” Curtis Bennett, Loyola Marymount University	Student/Faculty Center

Saturday, October 28

8:00—10:30	Registration, book exhibits	Lobby, BSC
8:00—8:50	Coffee and donuts	Lobby, BSC
8:05—8:50	Executive Committee meeting continuation (if necessary)	BSC 338
9:00—10:00	Invited Address: “The Joy of Solving Equations” Bernd Sturmfels, University of California, Berkeley	BSC 343
10:00—10:30	Break & refreshments	Lobby, BSC
10:30—11:30	Contributed Paper Sessions	BSC
11:40—12:40	Invited Address: “Averaging, Discrete Means, Coalition Building, and a Paradox of Social Choice” Curtis Bennett, Loyola Marymount University	BSC 343
12:40	Closing remarks	

For additional
meeting details, see
pages 8 through 11.

Check the Section web page for updates, online registration, and paper submission: <http://www.maa.org/Ohio>.

Meeting Registration

(continued from page 1)

third floor and it is right where all the main speaking events will be held.

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 buffet fee (\$15 per person, it will include both meat and non-meat dishes)] to: Ohio Section MAA Fall Meeting, c/o Dr. Richard Daquila, Muskingum College, New Concord, OH 43762. Phone (740-826-8302), FAX (740-826- 8229). Registration by FAX or e-mail will be pending upon receipt of registration fees, which you may bring to the meeting.

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 Fall Ohio Section meeting. Reports on projects, research announcements, or anything you believe would be of interest to those in attendance are welcome.

Contributors should send a title and a brief abstract by **October 13, 2006**. Although online submission with your meeting registration is preferred, you may also submit your title and abstract by U.S. mail or email to the chair of the Program Committee: Barbara D’Ambrosia, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio 44118, bdambrosia@jcu.edu. Please use only plain text in your title and abstract, as the abstract submittal system cannot process TeX or other graphics code.

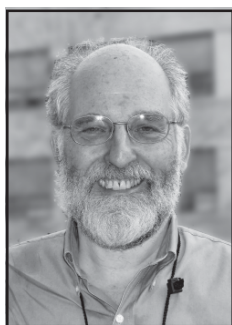
The presentation rooms will include a computer and a projector, as well as an overhead projector and a blackboard. Please note that *laptop computers cannot be connected to the projectors*. Speakers with specific questions about technology needed for contributed talks should contact Rich Daquila, rdaquila@muskingum.edu.

David Singer

“Focusing on the Critical Points of Polynomials”

An early result in freshman calculus locates the critical point of a quadratic polynomial at the midpoint of the interval joining its two zeroes; this even remains true when the roots are complex. Not as well known, though, is a theorem of Bocher and Grace which locates the critical points of a cubic polynomial at the foci of a certain ellipse. This talk will explore the geometry of this result and some of its generalizations.

David Singer was the 2005 recipient of the Ohio Section *Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics*. David says that he learned mathematics from his mother, and at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his Ph.D. in 1970. Since 1975 he has taught mathematics and done research in differential geometry



at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the author of the book *Geometry: Plane and Fancy*, as well as numerous articles. In recent years he has particularly enjoyed teaching number theory and cryptology to students in mathematics and computer science and working with high school mathematics teachers during the summer. At home he enjoys playing the piano and playing with his three grandchildren.

Curtis Bennett

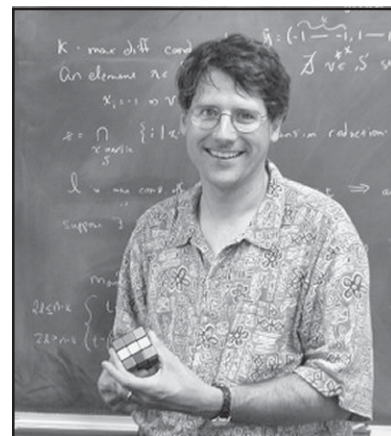
“Understanding the Thurston Model of Hyperbolic Space”

A common model of hyperbolic space, introduced by Bill Thurston and mentioned in *The Shape of Space* by Jeff Weeks, involves gluing together equilateral triangles so that 7 meet at every vertex. In *The Heart of Mathematics*, Ed Berger and Michael Starbird pose the question of drawing a large triangle on this space and measuring its angles. Drawing such a triangle turns out to be curiously difficult. In this talk we will investigate why this is difficult, taking a tour through Pick’s Theorem, Euler’s Formula, and the relationship between lines in the model and lines in hyperbolic space.

“Averaging, Discrete Means, Coalition Building, and a Paradox of Social Choice”

What would be an example of a family with an *average* number of 1.7 children? Alternatively, suppose members of a department all wanted to donate the same dollar amount to a worthy cause (like the MAA), but would vote to decide how much. In this talk we shall look at such questions and how coalitions can distort the traditional average. We shall then look at what axioms a mean on a discrete set should satisfy to avoid the danger of coalition building, the implications of these axioms, and a paradoxical result.

Curtis Bennett received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1990. He held postdoctoral positions at Michigan State University and Ohio State University. In 1993, Curtis started teaching at Bowling Green State University. In 2002, he moved to Loyola Marymount University where he was recently promoted to full professor. Curtis was a 2000-01 and 2003-04 Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning fellow. While a member of the Ohio Section of the MAA, Curtis served on CONSTUM, and chaired the committee in 2001-2002. In 2004, he became the Secretary-Treasurer of the Southern California-Nevada Section of the MAA, and he is currently the Secretary of that section. His mathematical interests include group theory, finite (and infinite) geometries, buildings, combinatorics, mathematical puzzles and games, and the teaching and learning of mathematics. He has been published in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, *Mathematics Magazine*, and *Math Horizons*, as well as various journals in combinatorics and algebra.



Bernd Sturmfels

“The Joy of Solving Equations”

Gröbner bases are a fun method for solving algebraic equations. See how it works, why it is useful, and what you should do with the change in your pocket.

Bernd Sturmfels is a 2005-2007 Pólya Lecturer. He received doctoral degrees in Mathematics in 1987 from the University of Washington, Seattle, and the Technical University Darmstadt, Germany. After two postdoctoral years at the Institute for Math-

ematics and its Applications, Minneapolis, and the Research Institute for Symbolic Computation, Linz, Austria, he taught at Cornell University, before joining UC Berkeley in 1995, where he is Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science. His honors include a National Young Investigator Fellowship, a Sloan Fellowship, and a David and Lucile Packard Fellowship. Sturmfels served as von Neumann Professor at TU Munich in Summer 2002,



as the Hewlett-Packard Research Professor at MSRI Berkeley in 2003-2004, and he was a Clay Senior Scholar in 2004. A leading experimentalist among mathematicians, Sturmfels has authored or edited 13 books and about 150 research articles, in the areas of combinatorics, algebraic geometry, symbolic computation and their applications. He currently works on algebraic methods in statistics and computational biology.

CONCUR Panel Discussion

Moderator: Cathy Stoffer

“Future of the Entire College-Level Mathematics Curriculum”

Panelists will address curriculum issues in different concentration areas, such as math education, the mathematics major, computational science, actuarial science major, mathematical economics, etc.

Publishers’ Exhibits

Several commercial publishers will exhibit their wares in the lobby area of the Boyd Science Center, on Friday and Saturday. Please encourage any book reps you meet to contact Rich Daquila at rdaquila@muskingum.edu or 740-826-8302, to take advantage of this opportunity to display their wares this fall for a gathering of mathematics faculty from around Ohio.

There will also 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 buffet banquet will be held in the Student/Faculty Center, on the lower level (known locally as the “Bottom of the Center,” or “BOC”). The banquet will include chicken, vegetarian lasagna, potatoes, salad and dessert.

During the pre-banquet social time there will not be a cash bar, due to a local ordinance which prohibits the sale of alcoholic beverages. Instead, some refreshments will be served at that time.

Banquet reservations must be made by **October 20**, preferably at the time of on-line registration. The price of the banquet is \$15 per person. There may be additional banquet tickets available on site, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Directions to Muskingum College

Muskingum College is located off interstate I-70 at exit 169, which is the State Route 83 New Concord exit.

From I-70:

- Take exit 169 (S.R. 83)
- Turn north on S.R. 83, go one mile to traffic light (U.S. 40/22)
- Turn right on Main St. (U.S. 22/40)
- Proceed for about 1/8 of a mile
- Turn left onto Comin Street following the signs to the theater.

From I-77:

- Take I-70 west 9 miles to exit 169 (S.R. 83)
- Turn north on S.R. 83, go one mile to traffic light (U.S. 40/22)
- Turn right on Main St. (U.S. 22/40)
- Proceed for about 1/8 of a mile
- Turn left onto Comin Street following the signs to the theater.

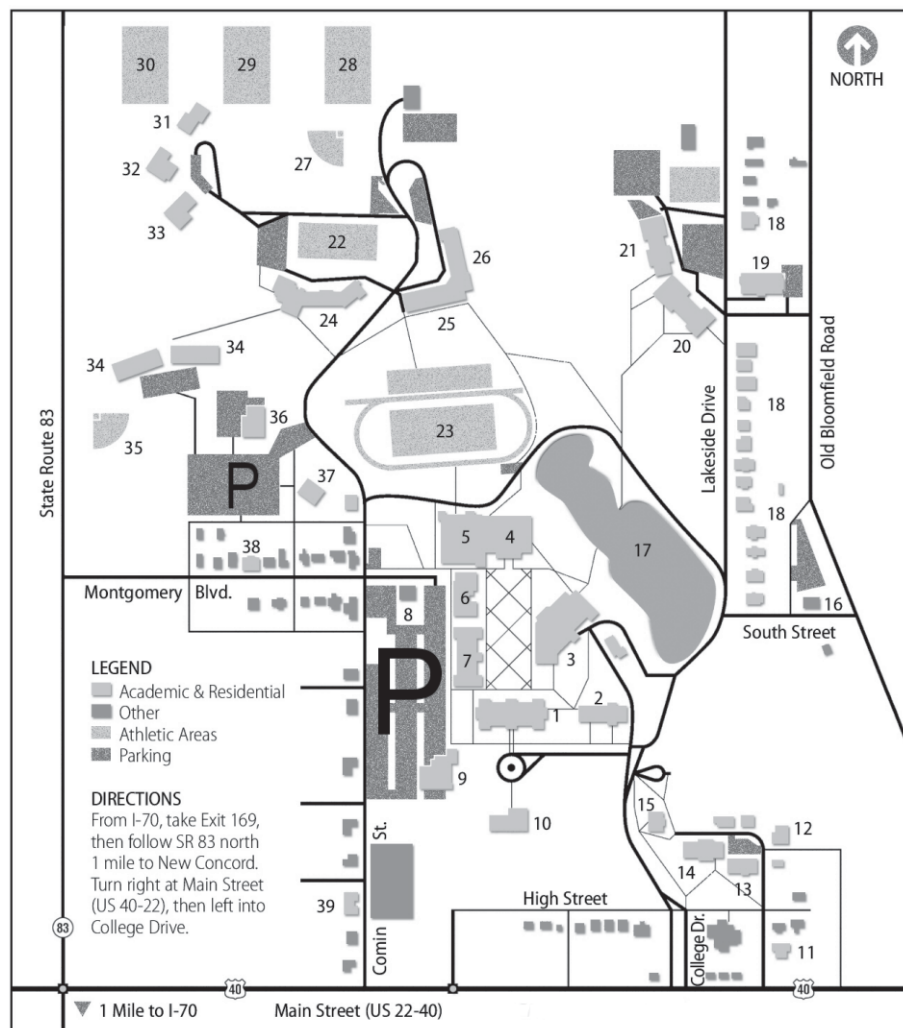
Parking will be in the parking lots off Comin Street, **marked “P” on the map**. Some parking will be available on the lot next to Cambridge Hall (7) with overflow parking in the Stag(37)-Ulster (36) parking lot. Meeting registration is in the **Boyd Science Center**, building 3 on the map, and the banquet is located in the Student/Faculty Center, which is building 6 on the map.

Visit the local arrangements web site at <http://www.muskingum.edu/~rdaquila/maafall06/> for additional information, including information on local dining, and a color map of the Muskingum campus.



Student/Faculty Center
Site of the Friday Evening Banquet

Muskingum Campus Map



Where to Stay

The following rooms and rates are being held until September 27. *All listed hotels are approximately 9 miles from campus.*

Holiday Inn

(9 miles from campus)
I-70, Exit 160 Airport Rd
(740) 453-0771
(rate \$69.00—Mention MAA meeting at Muskingum College)

Best Western

(9 miles from campus)
I-70 Exit 160
4929 East Pike
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
740/453-6300 or 800/843-7663
(rate \$69.99—Mention MAA meeting at Muskingum College)

Comfort Inn

(9 miles from campus)
I-70, Route 209 exit
(740) 435-3200
(800) 424-6423
(rate \$65.00—Mention MAA meeting at Muskingum College)

Hampton Inn Cambridge

(9 miles from campus)
I-70, Route 209 exit
8775 Georgetown Rd.
Cambridge, OH 43725
Phone: (740) 439-0600
(rate \$85.00—Mention MAA meeting at Muskingum College)

About Muskingum College

As President James Monroe once observed, “The test of education is not what a student has learned, but what a student has become.” And since Muskingum’s founding in 1837, the College’s alumni have consistently emerged as leaders in business, media, education, and science. For the fifth year, the College has been named to the “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” list released by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Located in New Concord, Ohio, Muskingum College offers baccalaureate programs in the liberal arts and sciences to 1,700 undergraduate students in a residential college setting. The College also offers masters level programs to approximately 1,150 graduate students. The 225-acre campus includes the new state-of-the-art 32,000 square foot Philip and Betsey Caldwell Hall, which houses the speech, journalism, and theatre programs.

The math program at Muskingum is designed to portray mathematics as a universal language of creative and critical thought and to meet the needs of those who intend to teach, to do graduate work in mathematics, and to pursue careers which rely substantially upon mathematics. The department, housed in the Boyd Science Center, currently offers about 21 different courses, which serve majors in the sciences, business, and education, in addition to general education requirements. Students studying mathematics at Muskingum have the opportunity to join the Ohio Zeta chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon Mathematics Honorary. KME is a specialized honor society with chapters in colleges and universities which offer a strong mathematics program.

The Department has four full-time faculty members dedicated to the success of their students. Students sometimes work one-on-one with faculty members in directed study situations on research topics. Muskingum College Associate Professor of Mathematics, Dr. David L. Craft, has been recognized for his outstanding teaching by *Ohio Magazine*, in its annual Excellence in Education issue. Earlier this year he also received Muskingum’s *William Oxley Thompson Award for Excellence in Teaching*, the college’s highest teaching honor.

The Mathematics Department welcomes you to Muskingum College for the Fall 2006 Meeting of the Ohio Section.

Calendar

Ohio Section

Spring 2007 Section Meeting, April 13-14, 2007, Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, OH

Fall 2007 Section Meeting, October 19-20, 2007, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH

Spring 2008 Section Meeting, Marietta College, Marietta, OH

National MAA-AMS

Annual Joint Meetings, January 5-8, 2007, New Orleans, LA

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

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

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

Annual Joint Meetings, January 7-10, 2009, Washington, DC

MathFest, August 6-8, 2009, Portland OR

Annual Joint Meetings, January 6-9, 2010, San Francisco, CA

MathFest, August 5-7, 2010, Pittsburgh PA

Annual Joint Meetings, January 5-8, 2011, New Orleans, LA

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

Other

Miami University 34th Annual Conference, September 29-30, 2006, Miami University, Oxford, OH

OCTM Conference, October 12-14, 2006, Toledo, OH

SIAM Great Lakes Symposium, October 14, 2006, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Indiana Section Workshop on Combinatorics and the Social Sciences, October 14, 2006, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN

AMS Fall Central Section Meeting, October 21-22, 2006, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

AMATYC Annual Conference, Nov. 2-5, 2006, Cincinnati, OH

International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics, February 15-18, 2007, Boston, MA

AMS Spring Central Section Meeting, March 16-17, 2007, Miami University, Oxford, OH

NCTM Annual Meeting, March 21-24, 2007, Atlanta, GA

Kentucky Section, March 30-31, 2007, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY

Allegheny Mountain Section, April 13-14, 2007, Mercyhurst College, Erie, 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. For membership information, visit the MAA's web page: <http://www.maa.org>. MAA Departmental Liaisons also have membership information.

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THE Jesuit University IN Cleveland

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John Carroll University
University Heights, OH 44118-4581

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Give to someone in mathematics.

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Even if you are not a member
of MAA, we would love to see
you at the meeting!

Time Value Material - Please do not delay!