



OHIO FOCUS

The MAA Ohio Section Newsletter

Volume 8

Fall 2007

Number 5

Fall Meeting at Wittenberg University October 26 - 27, 2007

The Fall Meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio, on October 26-27, 2007. The meeting will begin at noon on Friday, with the first invited address at 1:30 pm in the Kuss Science Center, and will conclude at 12:50 pm on Saturday. Major addresses will be given by invited speakers **Tom Price** of The University of Akron; **Mihai Caragiu** of Ohio Northern University; **Frank Ryan**, former NFL quarterback, and the only Ph.D. in mathematics ever to play in the league; and **Richard Little** of Baldwin Wallace College. Other meeting participants are encouraged to submit talks for the contributed paper sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Graduate students in mathematics or mathematics education are especially encouraged to attend. Limited travel assistance funds are available for graduate student speakers. Application for these funds should be made at pre-registration. A Friday evening banquet is planned as well.



Barbara Deer Kuss 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 19**. Abstracts for contributed papers must be submitted by **October 12**.

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 meeting will be in the Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center. Registration will be held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

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 (\$25 per person)] to: Ohio Section MAA Fall Meeting, c/o Dr. Brian Shelburne, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH 45501. Phone (937-327-7862). Registration by e-mail will be pending upon receipt of registration fees.

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President's Message

Greetings all! I hope that you have had a good start to your school year and are looking forward to visiting us at Wittenberg for the Fall Ohio Section meeting.

This is the first issue of the Ohio Section Newsletter that is not being sent in paper format to all Ohio Section members. Several other sections have gone to electronic or online versions of their newsletters and have had good experiences with the transition. The Ohio Section has been cautious with this move, but now believes the time is right. We will have an obvious savings from reduced printing costs and there should be an immense benefit from making the newsletter available to Ohio Section members weeks earlier than in the past. Postcards will be sent to each member in the Fall and Spring to remind them that an Ohio Section meeting is approaching and that they should check out the section website <http://www.maa.org/ohio> to access the current newsletter and other information. I suggest that you print the newsletter for yourself and posterity. Who knows, paper may have a longer shelf life than things posted on the web.

I hope that you were able to attend the Spring meeting in Portsmouth. If not, you missed a great meeting. The weather was beautiful and Phil Blau and the other local arrangements folks did a fine job. The program committee, headed by Barbara D'Ambrosia, provided us with a fine program. Francis Su presented a talk on "Preference Sets, Graphs and Voting in Agreeable Societies" and during his talk on "My Favorite Math Fun Facts" he told about juicy math tidbits he uses to start off his calculus classes. Francis makes these "Fun Facts" available to everyone via the web. Just google "Math Fun Facts" and you'll find a link to Francis Su's site. Judy Palagallo, Danny Otero and Tom Dence also gave very enjoyable and interesting invited presentations.

This summer, through the department liaisons, I sent out a message inviting interested parties to volunteer to serve on Ohio Section committees. At the same time, a similar invitation was posted on the section website. The response was outstanding and I'd like to thank all those who volunteered.

This will be the last year in Carl Spitznagel's term as newsletter editor. I know through first hand experience that the job of being editor can be tough, but Carl seems to handle it with ease. I am happy to announce that Barbara D'Ambrosia has agreed to serve as the next newsletter editor and will take over when Carl's term comes to a close. John Zimmerman, the Ohio Section Archivist, will also complete his term of service this year. Last year, Tom Dence recruited Danny Otero to replace John, and Danny will take over the archivist duties after the Spring Ohio Section meeting at Marietta. John and Carl deserve the Section's gratitude for their years of work.

On behalf of the Section, I'd also like to thank Dale Mugler for his work with Ohio NExT. His term as the Ohio Project

NExT Coordinator ended last spring. Dale is being replaced by three new co-coordinators—Wiebke Diestelkamp, Chris Swanson and John Prather. The Section is lucky to have such an active NExT organization. If you have recently added new members to your department, please encourage them to attend Ohio Section meetings and to take advantage of what Ohio NExT has to offer.

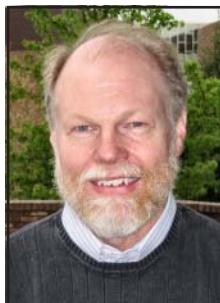
In August, I attended MathFest in San Jose and would like to report on some of what I learned there. A few years ago, there was discussion of elimination of the summer meeting of the MAA, but MathFest is now very healthy. Attendance in San Jose set a MathFest record and included participation of many students. One of the highlights of the meeting for me was to hear Donald Knuth deliver the J. Sutherland Frame Lecture and to witness his induction into the newly formed Pi Mu Epsilon chapter which was established at his alma mater, Case Western Reserve University.

At the Section Officers Meeting in San Jose, we were told that the MAA is proud of its newly redesigned website <http://www.maa.org> and encourages MAA members get into the habit of checking the site often, since new items (such as columns and articles about mathematics in the news) are posted nearly every working day. If you don't have time to access the site every day, don't despair. Nearly everything posted is archived and easily available. We were also told that MAA members now have online access to the journals they subscribe to. For example, Mathematics Magazine subscribers have searchable access to back issues once they login at the MAA website. Try it! But be aware that the MAA warned us that there are some bugs in their system and some members have trouble logging in. They expect to eliminate those problems in the next few months. Finally, the MAA folks announced that employment opportunities advertised at the "Math jobs" link on their homepage will be expanded to include jobs which are outside of mathematics but require mathematics in the job description.

The Ohio Section has been very successful in recruiting schools to host Section meetings. We have meetings scheduled at Marietta College, Capital University, Bowling Green State University, Baldwin-Wallace College, Kent State University and Ursuline College. The Indiana Section has proposed holding a joint meeting with the Ohio Section sometime in the next few years. Nothing is certain, but the Executive Committee is looking into this possibility. If your department would like to host an Ohio Section meeting at your institution, please let me know.

It will be an honor to serve as President of the Section this year. I hope to see you at the fall meeting at Wittenberg at the end of October.

Bill Higgins
Section President



Section Governor's Report

I have just returned from MathFest in San Jose where I saw many Ohio colleagues and students. Faculty representatives gave talks and minicourses, participated in panels and contributed to the Project NExT workshops. If I counted correctly, thirty-one students from Ohio gave presentations, and two teams competed in the Math Jeopardy. Robert Bosch of Oberlin College received the Trevor Evans Award for his article "Opt Art" in *Math Horizons*. So, Ohio was well represented, and I think that a good time was had by all.

While in San Jose, I also attended the MAA Board of Governors meeting. The Budget Committee reported a proposed deficit for the 2008 operating budget. The deficit reflects a 3% drop in membership, attributed to the new dues structure, and a drop in indirect costs from federal grants. Book sales, particularly those through Amazon, remain strong. The MAA recognizes a need for new revenue sources. The Executive Committee of the MAA works on Strategic Planning for the MAA in cycles. One result of this planning was the hiring of a Director of Student Programs. Look for new proposals about undergraduate and graduate student membership early in 2008. STEM issues will be part of the third cycle of planning. The final reports of these committees are available to MAA members at www.maa.org/aboutmaa/sp.

Project NExT introduced eighty-five faculty fellows for 2007-2008. Each of the 29 MAA sections is represented in the new class. The Ohio Section welcomes Sarah Crown at Denison, Dana Paquin at Kenyon and Muhammad Usman at University of Dayton. We look for their active participation in Section activities. The new additions take the national total of Project NExT fellows over the 1000 mark for the fourteen years of the program.

Ivars Peterson, the new Director of Publications for Journals and Communications, reminded all of us to check MAA Online often to keep up-to-date with mathematical activities. He is also looking for suggestions from members on novel programs that exist within our sections.

I also urge you to continue seeking ways to participate in the Section activities. Bill Higgins welcomes your input and your help on various committees. Dates and locations for several future meetings are listed at the end of this newsletter. Plan ahead to attend the meetings and invite colleagues and students to join you. I look forward to seeing you at Wittenberg.

Judith Palagallo
Section Governor



OHIO FOCUS

The newsletter of the Ohio Section of the Mathematical Association of America, which first appeared in 1973, is published online twice yearly, in time to be available to members in advance of the fall and spring meetings.

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Deadline for the next newsletter is

February 8, 2008

Email copy is preferred. Early submission is appreciated.

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

Ohio Project NExT 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 25, the night preceding the Ohio Section Fall Meeting, members of Ohio Project NExT will gather for a banquet at the Holiday Inn in Springfield, beginning at 7:00 p.m. 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.

Then, on Friday morning, October 26, the Ohio NExT program will continue on the Wittenberg University campus. The program will feature two workshops, along with contributed talks by NExT members. At last spring's meeting, the NExT workshop at Shawnee State University featured Bill Higgins from Wittenberg University and Danny Otero from Xavier University for the fifty-minute workshops. Chris Swanson (Ashland) and John Davenport (Wittenberg) gave 20-minute talks. At the fall 2006 Ohio Project NExT meeting, there were workshops presented by Al Stickney (Wittenberg) and Robert Smith (Miami), as well as talks given by John Prather (Ohio U. – Eastern) and Huizhen Guo (Xavier).

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

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

2007 - 2008 Ohio Section Leadership

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Bill Higgins, Wittenberg University
937-327-7859; whiggins@wittenberg.edu

Past-President #1

Thomas Dence, Ashland University
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Past-President #2

Dwight Olson, John Carroll University
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Vickie Van Dresar, Ashland University
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Chris Swanson, Ashland University
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John Prather, Ohio University Eastern
740-699-2498; prather@ohio.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

* Don Hunt, Ohio Northern	2008
Jon Stadler, Capital University	2009
Brian Shelburne, Wittenberg	2010

Committee on Curriculum (CONCUR)

* Adam Parker, Wittenberg Univ	2009
Maria Raiti, Ohio Northern Univ	2009
Robert Mendris, Shawnee State	2010
Rob-Roy Mace, Marshall Univ	2010
Charles McCracken, Sinclair CC	2010
Allan Silberger, Cleveland State	2010
Irina Lomonosov, Lorain CC	2010

Committee on Section Activities (CONSACT)

* Phil Blau, Shawnee State	2008
Juan Bes, Bowling Green	2008
Judith Holdener, Kenyon College	2009
Lew Ludwig, Denison Univ	2010
Dana Paquin, Kenyon College	2010
Pamela Warton, Findlay College	2010

Committee on Student Members (CONSTUM)

* John Whitaker, Shawnee State	2010
Mihai Caragiu, Ohio Northern	2008
Chris Swanson, Ashland Univ	2009
Noah Aydin, Kenyon College	2009
Art Busch, Univ of Dayton	2010
Frank Ingram, Youngstown State	2010
Sarah Crown, Denison Univ	2010
Michael Ferrara, Univ of Akron	2010

Committee on Teacher Education and Certification/Licensure (CONTEAL)

* John Prather, Ohio Univ. Eastern	2008
Susan Thompson, Otterbein Coll	2008
Chris O'Connor, Shawnee State	2008
Jim Fitzsimmons, Wilmington Col	2008
Irina Chernikova, Univ. Akron	2009
Jon Dunlop, Wright State Univ.	2009
Becky Krakowski, Univ of Dayton	2010
Sandy Schroeder, Ohio Northern	2010

OTHER COMMITTEES

* Denotes committee chair.

Nominating Committee

*Dwight Olson, John Carroll Univ	2010
Mark Smith, Miami University	2009
Dale Mugler, Univ. of Akron	2008

Committee on Contests

David Stenson, John Carroll	AMC12
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Teaching Award Committee

* Thomas Dence, Ashland Univ	(PP)
Mark De Saint-Rat, Miami Univ	(Sec)
David Singer, Case-Western Reserve University (Past recipient)	
Tom Price, University of Akron (Past recipient)	

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Fall 2007 (October 26-27)
Wittenberg University
Brian Shelburne
bshelburne@wittenberg.edu

Spring 2008 (April 11-12)
Marietta College
Mark Miller
millerr@marietta.edu

Fall 2008 (October 24-25)
Capital University
Tom Gearhart
tgearhar@capital.edu

Spring 2009
Bowling Green State University
Juan Bes
jbes@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Fall 2009: Baldwin-Wallace

Spring 2010: Kent State

Fall 2010: Ursuline College

Bill Higgins Wins Ohio Section Teaching Award

The 2007 Ohio Section *Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics* has been awarded to Dr. William J. Higgins from Wittenberg University. The award was presented by Bill Friel, member of the Teaching Award Committee, on April 13, 2007, at the Spring Section Meeting.

Bill Higgins began his teaching career twenty-five years ago, and has been immersed in the pursuit and promotion of excellence in teaching ever since. From attending a multitude of mini-courses and workshops on teaching to presenting colloquium talks and other presentations on teaching at professional meetings; from directing numerous research projects and honors theses to acting out Galois' death in classes; from being nominated for a teaching award at an institution while there as a visiting professor on sabbatical leave to serving in significant leadership roles for the Ohio Section; from consulting with national Project

NExT Fellows to being a mentor to young colleagues, Bill has exemplified the care and characteristics suggested by the name of this award.



Bill's colleagues and students have repeatedly cited his patience and persistence, and his commitment and ability to work with students at both ends of the academic spectrum. One student wrote "I can still picture Dr. Higgins pausing during a lecture and saying to me, with a nice smile, 'you don't look convinced,' and then repeating a point that was not well understood."

More than one student also noted the "tons of time" that Bill spends outside of the classroom helping students master their mathematics. It is not clear, however, if that included the time that Bill spent being, as one student put it, "a crucial member of the Math Department intramural volleyball team."

Call for Distinguished Teaching Award Nominations

The Ohio Section Teaching Award Committee asks that you consider nominating a worthy colleague for the *2008 Ohio Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics*. 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, write a description of why you have chosen the particular individual to nominate, and 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 2008 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 winners of the national award are selected each year from the nominees from the sections. Past winners have been Ohio Section's **Aparna Higgins**, University of Dayton (2005) and **V. Frederick Rickey**, Bowling Green State University (1993).

The deadline for nominations is January 1, 2008. Please address inquiries or nominations to the Committee chair: Thomas Dence, Department of Mathematics, Ashland University, 401 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805 (419-289-5262 or tdence@ashland.edu).

Section Officers Elected

Congratulations to the new officers of the Ohio Section who were elected at the spring Section meeting on April 13, 2007. **Vickie Van Dresar**, of Ashland University, was elected to the position of President-Elect. She will assume the role of Section President after the Spring, 2008, Section meeting.

Brian Shelburne, of Wittenberg University, was elected to a three-year term on the Program Committee. In his third year, the 2009-2010 academic year, Brian 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.

Campus Notes

Ashland University: The Department of Mathematics and Computer welcomes **Krista Hands** as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics starting in Fall, 2007. Krista received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma in May 2007, with her dissertation focusing on research in undergraduate mathematics education. If you wish to learn the words of “Boomer Sooner,” make sure to introduce yourself to Krista at the Fall Meeting. **Chris Swanson** was appointed the Director of the Academic Honors Program at Ashland University for 2007-2008 academic year.

Bowling Green State University: **Bill Kirby** passed away on May 23, 2007. He will be greatly missed. **Alexander Diesl** (U.C. Berkeley) joined the Department, and **Anna Kasikova** is visiting for the full academic year. **Warren W. McGovern** is on sabbatical leave at University of Florida, and **Elmas Irmak**, is on leave this Fall at MSRI. **Truc Nguyen** retired.

Cleveland State University has hired three non-tenure track term faculty: **Patricia Kan**, **Antoinette Marquard** and **Sanjoy Brahma**. Mrs. Kan’s and Mrs. Marquard’s interests lie in mathematics for liberal arts students, basic statistics and mathematics education. Dr. Brahma’s research interests are in the areas of numerical methods and linear algebra. The Mathematics Department welcomes them! **Luiz Felipe Sieben Martins** and **John Oprea** are on professional sabbatical leave. **Roger Marty** has announced that he will retire as of December, 2007. The Department thanks Roger for his contributions over the years and wishes him well. Roger has served the Ohio Section in a number of roles over the years, including a term as Section President.

College of Wooster: **Jennifer Roche** has joined the Mathematics and CS Department at The College of Wooster as a tenure-track Assistant Professor. Jen is a NEXT fellow (sterling dot) and comes to Wooster from upstate New York. She received her PhD from the University of Virginia in 2005 with a thesis in non-associative algebra on radices and matrix rings.

Denison University would like to welcome two new colleagues, **Sarah Crown** and **Tom Wexler**, to the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Sarah earned her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in August, and she studies topological and algebraic combinatorics. This semester, she is teaching an introductory Calculus course as well as a course on Combinatorics. Tom earned his Ph.D. in Computer Science from Cornell University, and works on algorithmic game theory, approximation algorithms, and graph theory. He is currently teaching Intro Computer Science and Theory of Computation. He is interested in art (both computer generated and traditional) and is somewhat addicted to the game Set.

John Carroll University: **Brendan Foreman** has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure, effective Fall, 2007.

Sinclair Community College: **Anthony Ponder** became chair of the department at the start of the 2007 spring quarter. He has been working at Sinclair since 1991. Tony is also the Treasurer of OhioMATYC. **David Stott** was promoted to Professor, and **Karl Hess** and **Jim Willis** were promoted to Associate Professor, effective fall, 2007.

University of Dayton: The Department of Mathematics welcomes **Virginia (Ginny) Keen** and **Muhammad Usman** as Assistant Professors. Ginny’s PhD from Michigan State University is in Curriculum, Teaching and Educational Policy, and Usman is an applied mathematician with a PhD from the University of Cincinnati.

Wittenberg University: **Adam Parker**, a member of the Wittenberg mathematics faculty since 2005 and a 2006-2007 National Project NExT Fellow, was named the recipient of Wittenberg’s 2007 ODK (Omicron Delta Kappa) Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is given annually to a faculty member in their first 5 years of teaching for outstanding work in the classroom. The Dept. of Math and CS is very pleased that **Steven Bogaerts** joined the Wittenberg faculty this fall as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science. He just recently finished his PhD in Artificial Intelligence at Indiana University.

Will Hahn Recuperating from Stroke

Dr. Will Hahn, retired from Wittenberg University, and the founder of the Section newsletter, had a fall at home in March, believed to have resulted from a stroke. Will is now residing in Indiana, and seems to be recovering well. Will’s family invite his friends and colleagues to visit or contact him.

Dr. Hahn’s contributions to the MAA are numerous, including being Ohio Section Chair in 1972-73, Ohio Section Governor from 1979 to 1982, and founder of

the Ohio Section Newsletter. In 1984, Will was awarded the MAA’s Certificate for Meritorious Service.

You may contact Will at the following address: Dr. S. W. Hahn, c/o Westminster Village, 5801 W. Bethel Ave., Muncie, IN 47304-9499, or call 765-288-2155. Ask for Health Center 2, and then ask the staff to speak with Will Hahn.

For additional information, including correspondence from Will’s family, see the Section web site, www.maa.org/Ohio.

*Mark your calendar now
for the spring meeting
of the Ohio Section:*

April 11-12, 2008

**Marietta College
Marietta, OH**

Oberlin's Michael Henle Named Editor of CMJ

The MAA is pleased to announce it has selected Michael Henle of Oberlin College as Editor of *The College Mathematics Journal*. His term as Editor-Elect will begin January 1, 2008, and he will serve as Editor for five years, 2009-2013.

Michael has been at Oberlin College since 1970 when he completed his Ph.D. at Yale. You may be familiar with his most recent book (2001) *Modern Geometries: Non-Euclidean, Projective, and Discrete*. Michael says that he expects to request a lot of assistance from Ohio mathematicians.

Ohio Section Student Team Competition Results

The fourth annual Student Team Competition was held at Shawnee State University on Friday, April 13, 2007, in conjunction with the spring meeting of the Ohio Section.

Sixty-five students participated, forming 29 teams and representing 11 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 Case-Western Reserve University: Matthew Reyna, Dan Thomson, and David Carper. Finishing in second place was the Ohio Northern University team consisting of Gregory Back, John Holodnak, and Andrew Homan. Another Case-Western Reserve team, Becca Winarski, Ryan Dorow, and Tony Cartwright, took third place.

Many thanks go to the members of CONSTUM and others who helped with the 2007 competition: Jeff Adler, Noah Aydin, Mihai Caragiu, Stephanie Edwards, Darren Parker, Chris Swanson, and Darren Wick



Coming Up in Ohio

Undergraduate Mathematics Day at University of Dayton

Undergraduate Mathematics Day at the University of Dayton will be held on Saturday, **November 3, 2007**. We invite contributed talks from undergraduates celebrating mathematics in all forms — research, learning, teaching, history. Talks presented by high school students, graduate students and faculty are also welcome. All presenters at the conference are invited to submit their papers to our refereed, on-line proceedings of the conference. In honor of Leonhard Euler's 300th birthday, Bill Dunham (Muhlenberg College) will present "An Euler Trifecta." A second invited talk will be given by Colleen Hoover (St. Mary's College). There will be no registration fee, and we will provide a free lunch. We can also offer limited support for student housing. Funding is generously provided by several offices at the University of Dayton and NSF-MAA RUMC grant DMS-0536991. Further details can be found at <http://academic.udayton.edu/MathEvents/Fall07/>

Student Conference at Youngstown State University

The Ohio Xi Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon at Youngstown State University is hosting its tenth annual regional Student Paper Meeting on **February 16, 2008**. The meeting will give 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 our region. Any topic in undergraduate mathematics that is likely to be of interest to other undergraduate mathematics students is appropriate, be it in history, education, research, or anything between. We are scheduling the talks for 15 minutes each with five minutes between talks. Each student giving a talk should list a faculty advisor, primarily for ease of communication. The National Science Foundation Regional Mathematics Conferences (NSF-RUMC) Grant Committee is supporting our conference this year (NSF Grant DMS-0241090). We have a limited amount of travel funding available. If you are in need of travel assistance, please contact Dr. G. Jay Kerns (gkerns@ysu.edu) as soon as possible. If you plan to attend the conference, please register (even if you are not giving a presentation). Your registration helps determine how much food is needed. Registration forms will be available in January. For more information, please see <http://www.math.ysu.edu/pme/conferences/>

Spring 2008 Ohio Section Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Spring 2008 Ohio Section meeting at **Marietta College**, on **April 11-12**. The Program Committee is assembling a program that you and your students will not want to miss, including talks by number theorist Carl Pomerance (Dartmouth College), Lew Lefton (Georgia Tech) and Bill Higgins (Wittenberg).

Ohio Section Summer Short Course

Plans are underway for the 2008 Ohio Section Summer Short Course. Although some of the details still have to be nailed down, tentative plans are for the short course to be held at Xavier University, most likely during the third week of June. The topic will deal with using original historical sources in the mathematics classroom. Watch for more details at the Fall Meeting.

Fall Meeting Program

*All activities except the banquet will take place in the Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center.
See map on page 12.*

Friday, October 26

12:00—4:30	Registration	KSC Atrium
12:00—1:00	Committee Meetings:	
	CONCUR	KSC Room 320
	CONSACT	KSC Room 351
	CONSTUM	KSC Room 212
	CONTEAL	KSC Room 327
1:00—4:30	Vendor and Book Exhibits	KSC Room 141
1:15—1:30	Welcome & Announcements	Bayley Aud.,
1:30—2:30	Invited Address:	KSC
	“Approximating Sums of Infinite Series”	
	Tom Price	
	University of Akron	
2:30—3:00	Break	
3:00—4:00	Invited Address:	Bayley Aud.,
	“Geometry with Complex Numbers”	KSC
	Mihai Caragiu,	
	Ohio Northern University	
4:10—6:05	Contributed Paper Sessions	KSC
4:10—6:05	Executive Committee meeting	KSC Rm 351
6:05—6:30	Social time	Ness Auditorium,
6:30—7:45	Banquet	Hollenbeck Hall
7:55—8:35	After-Dinner Talk:	Bayley Aud.,
	“Resolved, that a Football is a Mathematical Object”	KSC
	Frank Ryan,	
	Flatland	

Saturday, October 27

8:00—10:15	Registration	KSC Atrium
8:00—10:15	Vendor and Book Exhibits	KSC Room 141
8:00—8:50	Coffee and donuts	KSC Atrium
8:05—8:40	Executive Committee meeting continuation (if necessary)	KSC Rm 351
8:50—8:55	Announcements	Bayley Aud.,
8:55—9:55	Invited Address:	KSC
	“Mathematics and Truth”	
	Frank Ryan,	
	Flatland	
9:55—10:15	Break	
10:25—11:40	Contributed Paper Sessions	KSC
11:50—12:50	Invited Address:	Bayley Aud.,
	“Surviving the White Water Rapids at the Confluence of the Mathematics Curricula for High School and College”	KSC
	Richard Little,	
	Baldwin-Wallace College	
12:50	Closing remarks	

For additional
meeting information, see
below through page 12.

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

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. **Graduate students in mathematics or mathematics education are strongly encouraged to submit talks. Limited travel assistance funds are available for graduate student speakers. Application for these funds can only be made at pre-registration, online at www.maa.org/ohio.**

Contributors should send a title and brief abstract by October 12, 2007. Although online submission with your meeting reg-

istration is preferred, you may also submit your title and abstract by U.S. mail or e-mail to the Chair of the Program Committee: Don Hunt, Department of Mathematics, Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, 45810, d-hunt@onu.edu. Please use only plain text in your title and abstract as the abstract submittal system cannot process TeX or other graphics code.

Each presentation room will have a whiteboard, overhead projector, computer projector, laptop connections and internet access. Presenters can either plug in their laptops to the overhead projection system or plug in a flash drive to the resident computer. Speakers with specific questions about technology availability should contact Brian Shelburne, bshelburne@wittenberg.edu.

Frank Ryan

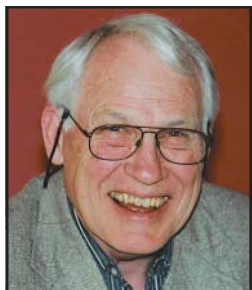
“Resolved, that a Football is a Mathematical Object”

Can this be? Well, yes and no; it depends on one’s perspective. For my part, representing the set (of unknown cardinality) of professional footballers holding a doctorate in mathematics, I shall stand to affirm this proposition. My line of reasoning will expand upon a multitude of experiences—both on and off the field, and in and out of the classroom—with some of the stalwarts of my time, including Sid Gillman, Gerald Mac Lane, Paul Brown, Jack Lohwater, Blanton Collier, George Piranian, Bart Giamatti, Sir Edward Collingwood, Vince Lombardi, and Rolf Nevanlinna. The crucial final argument will reveal the connection between metamathematics and metafootball, drawing upon the platonic view of mathematics espoused by Kurt Gödel. Cross-examination may follow at the will of the people.

“Mathematics and Truth: Have you Checked your Foundation Lately?”

In his paper “Does mathematics need new axioms?” [*Bull. Symbolic Logic* 6 (2000): 401-446] the logician Solomon Feferman speculates that 99% of working mathematicians expend their energies in fields other than mathematical logic and, further, he suggests that foundational axioms do not play an important role in their work. I must confess, Feferman had me pegged. We’ll look at some of the foundation issues and their impact on mathematics, and we’ll examine the foundational context of the Continuum Hypothesis and some of the unsolved problems of number theory which may or may not be examples of those true statements that cannot be proved according to Gödel’s incompleteness result.

Frank Ryan was born and raised in Texas. He attended The Rice Institute on an athletic scholarship, earning a BA in Physics in 1958. He subsequently received a PhD in mathematics in 1965 at the renamed Rice University. His thesis, which dealt with the boundary behavior of functions holomorphic in the unit disc, was advised by Gerald R. Mac Lane. He thereafter held faculty positions at Case Western Reserve University,



Yale University, and Rice University. Concurrently with his academic agenda he pursued a career in professional football from 1958 to 1970, playing quarterback for the Los Angeles Rams, the Cleveland Browns, and the Washington Redskins. The latter assignment, combined with his interest in computer technology, led to his appointment as director of information systems for the U. S. House of Representatives in 1971. He left government service in 1977 to join Yale as athletics director and lecturer in mathematics. He left Yale in 1988 to join a small corporation that produced

low-tech cable assemblies. This foray into the corporate world led to appointments on several corporate boards. In 1990 he returned to Rice as vice president of external affairs and professor of mathematics. After serving Rice for six years, he and his wife, Joan, an accomplished columnist for the Washington Post newspaper, retired to Grafton, Vermont. They will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary next March. Their life together has been blessed with four sons and nine grandchildren.

Mihai Caragiu

“Geometry with Complex Numbers”

In the last three years, Ohio Northern University hosted a Summer Honors Institute for gifted high school students. The week-long “Geometry with Complex Numbers” course was offered in 2006 and 2007. The students were not assumed to have prior knowledge of complex numbers. In this talk I would like to share the experience we had with introducing geometrical transformations (such as rotations, reflections and projections) with complex numbers to talented high-school students, and we will explore ways in which they can be used to quickly derive elegant geometrical results including (but not limited to) the Simson’s Line and the Nine Point Circle

Mihai Caragiu earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Bucharest. After receiving a Ph.D. in 1996 from the Pennsylvania State University, he held positions at

Washington State University, Stanford University (Educational Program for Gifted Youth) and, since the Fall of 2000, at Ohio



Northern University, where he is currently an Associate Professor of Mathematics. His research interests include number theory, finite fields, algebra and combinatorics. At Ohio Northern University he got involved in undergraduate research: since the Spring of 2001, his students have presented 25 research results at various regional or national mathematics meetings. Of his research papers, three are co-authored with undergraduates. In 2007-2008 he holds the Mary Reichelderfer Chair of Mathematics at Ohio Northern University

Tom Price

“Approximating Sums of Infinite Series”

I will describe a new method for approximating the sum of a series with a considerable reduction in computational effort. The algorithm proposed is a modification of the Euler-Maclaurin summation formula which is used to efficiently estimate sums of certain infinite series. The modified formula replaces the terms of a series with simple, easily constructed quantities that facilitate the calculation of integrals and derivatives associated with the Euler-Maclaurin scheme, thus providing a more tractable algorithm.

continued on page 10

Price (cont. from p.7)

Several examples are given to demonstrate the effectiveness and accuracy of the modified method. I will conclude with a brief analysis of the error incurred when using this new strategy which demonstrates that its accuracy compares favorably with that of the traditional Euler-Maclaurin summation formula. A portion of the work formed a senior honors project by Kara Garrison, who is currently working for Sherwin Williams in Cleveland.

Thomas Price was born in Sandersville, GA. After completing a Masters degree he served in the United States Army with a one-year tour of duty in Viet Nam. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia in 1976 and accepted a position at the University of Akron. Dr. Price has enjoyed professional leaves at Kent State University, the University of South Florida, Colorado State University, and Cornell University. He was awarded the Buchtel College, the University of Akron, and the Ohio Section MAA outstanding teaching awards. Dr. Price's teaching and research specialties were numerical analysis, approximation theory and number theory. He developed and taught new courses in each of these areas. His interdisciplinary research activities include work in Computer Science and Biomedical Medical Engineering. He managed undergraduate research teams and was a co-director of the NSF funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. Since his retirement in 2006 Dr. Price has remained active in mathematical research and writing. He also does volunteer work for various Christian Ministries.

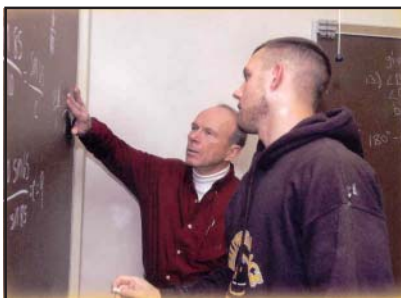


Richard Little

“Surviving the White Water Rapids at the Confluence of the Mathematics Curricula for High School and College”

This audience-participation presentation will attempt to answer the question, “Can the mathematics education of Ohio’s students (or those of any state) in grades nine through 16 survive the exciting turbulence provided by the various state and national agencies in their attempts to prescribe the mathematics we are to convey to our students?”

Dick Little has managed to survive degree programs at four institutions of higher education: B.Sc.(Math) at Wittenberg (Advisor: Norman Dodson), M.A. in Teaching at Johns Hopkins (Advisor: John Woodburn), NSF Academic Year Institute at Harvard (Advisor: Edwin Moise), Ph. D. at Kent State (Advisors: James Heddens and Kenneth Cummins). He taught at prep schools in Maryland, Indiana and Western Nigeria for seven years. In the fall of 1967 he joined the Mathematics Department of Kent State University and was assigned to the Stark Campus, where he taught Math for Elementary Teachers, the calculus sequence and occasional junior level classes. In the fall of 1975 he joined the Mathematics Dept. of Baldwin-Wallace College, where he has survived ever since, with occasional time off for moderately good behavior. Dick has served the Ohio Section, OCTM and the Ohio Math Educators Leadership Council as President, and on additional assignments for each of these organizations. He has survived numerous assignments from the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Board of Regents, and has served three times as a consultant to Project NExT.



Banquet

The Friday, October 26, banquet will be held in the Ness Auditorium in Hollenbeck Hall, adjacent to the Kuss Science Center. The banquet will feature a buffet with two meat choices and a vegetarian entrée, as well as salad, two sides, assorted breads, dessert and beverage. The cost of the buffet is \$25. A social time will precede the banquet in the same location. After the banquet, the meeting will continue with an after-dinner talk by Frank Ryan, in the Kuss Science Center.

Publishers’ Exhibits

Several commercial publishers will exhibit their wares on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, in Room 141 of the Kuss Science Center. Please be sure to stop and visit with the publishers’ representatives, who help to support the meeting with their contributions.

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! Why not plan on purchasing some of those great MAA books that you’ve always wanted?

About Wittenberg University

Wittenberg was one of the earliest colleges to be founded in what was at the time the frontier region of the United States. Wittenberg was named after the German university where Martin Luther posted his famous 95 theses and where William Shakespeare in his play sent the young Hamlet for his early schooling.

When Wittenberg began, it offered the traditional classical curriculum of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, moral philosophy, religion and mathematics (the 1845 Catalog of Officers and Students in Wittenberg College shows that Differential Calculus and Integral Calculus were Junior year courses) but also included an emphasis on geology and other emerging sciences. Its founders were opposed to slavery and to undue foreign influences in education and religion.

Today, with an enrollment of 1950 students, Wittenberg is a nationally recog-

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Directions to Wittenberg University

Hotels

From the East:

Visitors traveling from the east of Springfield should use I-70 (West) toward Dayton. Exit onto Route 68 (North) toward Urbana. Exit onto State Route 41 and turn right. You will pass a Marriot Fairfield Inn hotel and a Meijer Superstore. The road will come to a “T” intersection at a light. Turn right onto St. Paris Road. Turn right at the first stoplight onto Plum Street. The meeting will be held in the Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center, which is on the left in approximately 200 yards. Turn left on Bill Edwards Dr. and proceed to one of the parking lots.

From the West:

Use I-70 (East) toward Columbus. Exit onto Route 68 (North) toward Urbana and follow the above directions.

Parking will be available in one of three areas:

- As you turn right onto Plum Street, there may be street parking on the right hand side.
- As you turn left onto Bill Edwards Dr., there is a parking lot on the corner. This may be filled on Friday, but should be available on Saturday.
- If you continue on Bill Edwards Dr. the road will take a sharp left in approximately 300 yards. There is a parking lot on your right that is reserved for our meeting on Friday. There should be signs and a police officer.

See page 12 for a map of the Wittenberg campus.

About Wittenberg, continued from page 10

nized college for the liberal arts and sciences affiliated with the Lutheran Church. Wittenberg focuses on the development of the “whole person,” as it educates and prepares students for their intellectual, social, physical, spiritual, and aesthetic lives. With 96% of its faculty holding a Ph.D. or the highest degree in their academic field, Wittenberg offers a multifaceted program of more than 40 majors and programs designed to be rewarding both in and out of the classroom. The latest technology combines with a distinguished teaching tradition to produce a dynamic environment in Springfield, Ohio. A lovely 70 acre wooded residential campus helps create a nurturing environment with a strong community tradition. Wittenberg is a member of the NCAA Division III North Coast Athletic Conference.

Since the founding of the University, the study of mathematics has played a central role in the education of Wittenberg graduates. Currently the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has seven members and offers B.A. and B.S. degrees and minors in both Mathematics and Computer Science along with minors in Statistics and Computational Science. The department emphasizes small classes, quality teaching and using technology in the classroom. Wittenberg faculty members are active in the Ohio Section of the MAA and Wittenberg math students are active in the Wittenberg student chapter of the MAA.

All rooms feature two double-beds with up to 4-person occupancy. Rooms will be held until September 30th. Mention “Ohio Math Conference” to get the special group rate. Rates cited below do not include 12.5% sales and hotel tax.

Holiday Inn (3 miles from campus)

383 E. Leffel Lane
Springfield, OH 45505
(937) 323-8631

10 rooms on Thursday (for NExT) – all non-smoking

30 rooms on Friday – 25 non-smoking, 5 smoking

\$69 + 12.5% tax

Directions FROM meeting: Turn left (south) onto Plum St. Go two lights and turn left (east) onto W. Columbia Street. Go about .5 miles and turn right (south) on Limestone / US 72. Travel 2.6 miles and turn left on Leffel Ln.

Super 8 Motel (3 miles from campus)

2 W. Leffel Lane
Springfield, OH 45506
(937) 324-5501

30 rooms on Friday – 20 non-smoking and 10 smoking

Must call M-F between 8:00-4:00 and ask for (manager) Carol Stewart

\$54 + 12.5% tax

Directions FROM meeting: Turn left (south) onto Plum St. Go two lights and turn left (east) onto W. Columbia Street. Go about .5 miles and turn right (south) on Limestone / US 72. Travel 2.6 miles and turn right on Leffel Ln.

Fairfield Inn (2 miles from campus)

1870 West First Street
Springfield, OH 45504
(937) 323-9554

20 rooms on Friday – all non-smoking

\$74 + 12.5% tax

Directions FROM meeting: Turn right (north) on Plum St. At the first light, turn left onto St. Paris Rd. At the first light, turn left onto US 41. At the second light, turn left onto N. Bechtle Rd. At the first light, turn right onto 1st St.

Courtyard by Marriott (0.8 miles to campus – 15 minute walk)

100 S. Fountain Ave.
Springfield, OH 45502
(937) 322-3600

15 rooms on Friday – all non-smoking

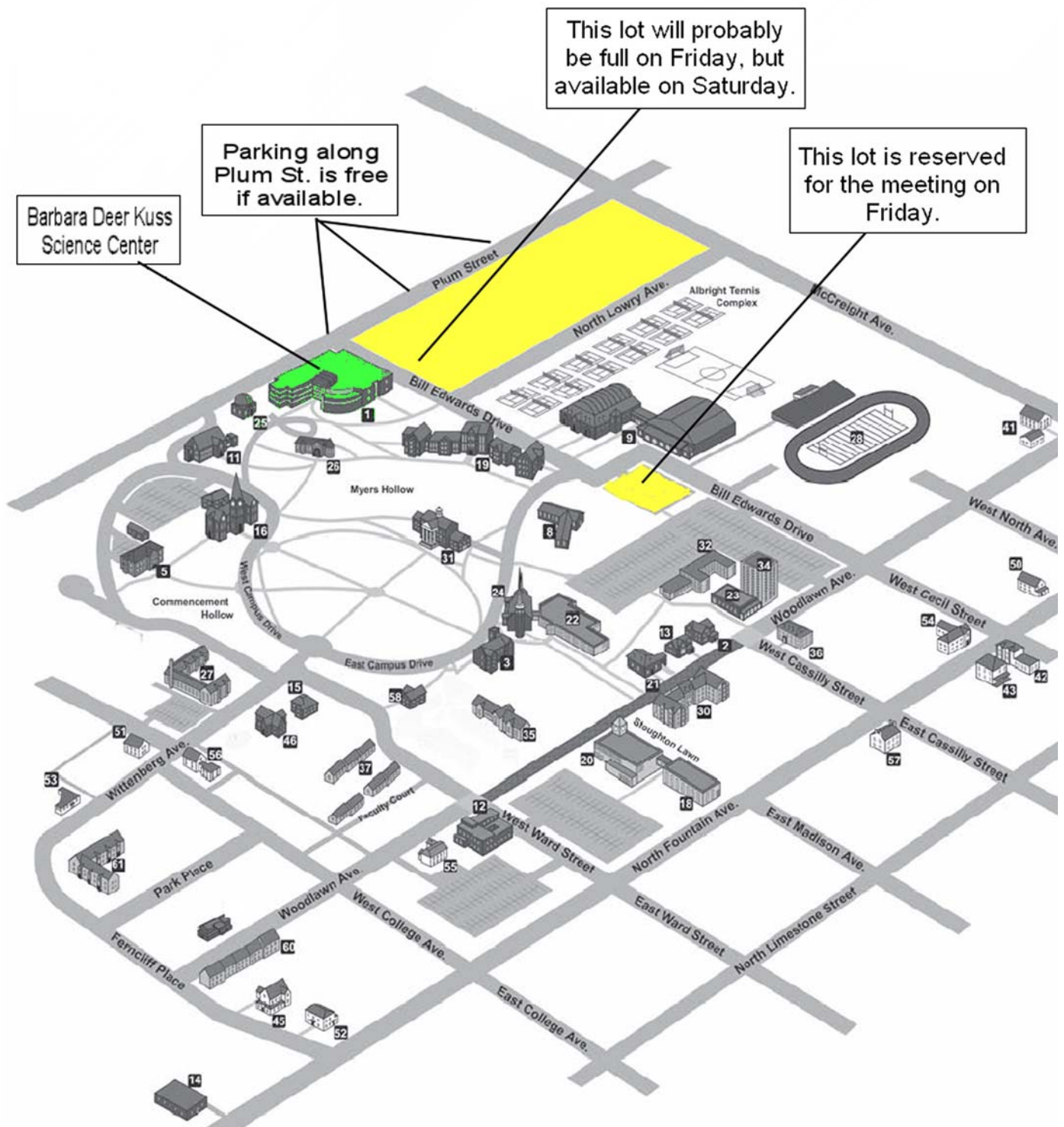
Group code “OMCOMCA”

\$95 + 12.5% tax

Directions FROM meeting: Turn left (south) onto Plum St. Go two lights and turn left (east) onto W. Columbia Street. Go about .5 miles and turn right (south) on S. Fountain Ave.

For additional local arrangements information, including various maps, see the local arrangements web site, at <http://www4.wittenberg.edu/academics/mathcomp/mathematics/meeting.html>

Wittenberg University Campus





*Barbara Deer Kuss Science Center
Site of the Fall Meeting at
Wittenberg University*

Thank You, Bill Friel

A resounding “Thank you!” is due to J. William Friel, of the University of Dayton. For many years, Bill has served the Ohio Section in a variety of roles, including Section President, Secretary-Treasurer and member of the Teaching Award Committee. Bill is the one who, for numerous years, has transported the many MAA books that are exhibited at the fall and spring Section meetings. As Secretary-Treasurer, he has not only kept the national MAA office content with the many forms and reports that must be filed every year, but he has also regularly attended the Executive Committee meetings at both the fall and spring meetings of the Section, and has helped to make our Section and our meetings run smoothly by attending the summer planning meetings. In many ways, Bill has been the glue that has held the Section together. Thanks for your many years of service, Bill!

Calendar

Ohio Section

Fall 2007 Section Meeting, October 26-27, 2007, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH

Spring 2008 Section Meeting, April 11-12, 2008, Marietta College, Marietta, OH

Fall 2008 Section Meeting, October 24-25, 2008, Capital University, Columbus, OH

National MAA-AMS

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

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

Annual Joint Meetings, January 5-8, 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 35th Annual Conference, September 28-29, 2007, Miami University, Oxford, OH

OCTM Conference, October 19-20, 2007, Columbus, OH

AMATYC Annual Conference, November 1-4, 2007, Minneapolis, MN

International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics, March 6-9, 2008, San Antonio, TX

NCTM Annual Meeting, April 9-12, 2008, Salt Lake City, UT

Indiana Section, March 28-29, 2008, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN

Kentucky Section, March 28-29, 2008, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY

Allegheny Mountain Section, April 11-12, 2008, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Michigan Section, May 2-3, 2008, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

Joint Statistical Meetings, August 3-7, 2007, Denver, CO