



# OHIO FOCUS

The MAA Ohio Section Newsletter

Volume 8

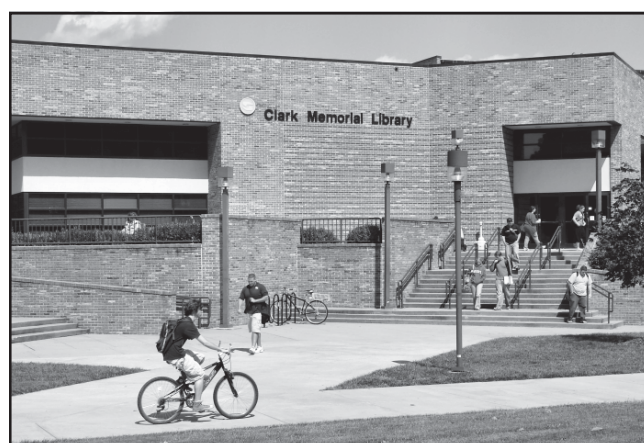
Spring 2007

Number 4

## Spring Meeting at Shawnee State University April 13 - 14, 2007

The Spring Meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held at Shawnee State University, Portsmouth, Ohio, on April 13-14, 2007. The meeting will begin at noon on Friday, with the first invited address at 1:30 in the Clark Memorial Library, and will conclude at 1:15 pm on Saturday. Major addresses will be given by invited speakers **Francis Edward Su** of Harvey Mudd College, **Thomas Dence** of Ashland University, **Daniel Otero** of Xavier University, and **Judith Palagallo** of The University of Akron. Other meeting participants, including students, are encouraged to submit talks for the contributed paper sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. A student team problem-solving competition, a Friday evening banquet, and a student pizza party and Integration Bee are also being planned.

*See complete meeting details, starting on page 6.*



*Clark Memorial Library*

### Newsletter Going Online

Beginning with the Fall 2007 issue, OhioFocus will be delivered online only. Instead of receiving a paper copy in the mail, members will be sent a postcard with a brief announcement of the upcoming Ohio Section meeting, and a notice that the online newsletter can be accessed through the Section web site, <http://www.maa.org/Ohio>.

On the web site you will find the same high quality format that was initiated over ten years ago by former OhioFocus editor Tom Hern. The main difference is that you will now have to print out whatever portion of the newsletter that you wish to have on paper.

This change is being implemented for a number of reasons, one of which is that the costs of printing and mailing have been rising. Even more significantly, printing delays and the time required for delivery of bulk mail have meant that some of our members may have received their newsletters too late to make plans to attend the meetings. With online posting, however, members will have access to the newsletter up to five weeks earlier than in the past. Additional advantages of the online format include the possibility of live web links, as well as color photos and maps.

We hope that you will like the improvements and the more timely news!

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## Section Governor's Report

I missed attending the fall meeting of the Ohio Section. The program was especially appealing and I know the meeting was a great success. Tom and I thoroughly enjoyed our fall in Vienna, but I will be glad to see you again at the spring meeting. I have just returned from the Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans where I attended the MAA Board of Governors meeting. We once again received a report that the MAA continues to be in excellent financial condition.

The work at the Carriage House at the headquarters of the MAA was completed in September 2006, and the house is now being used to host scientific conferences and workshops. The official opening ceremonies will be held in April. A special tribute will be given to the late Paul Halmos and his family for the donation of funds for the restoration. 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. The first cycle dealt with the American Math Competitions, professional development and revenue. The second cycle of planning is in progress. Dur-

ing this cycle governance of the MAA and student involvement will be reviewed. The Board spent a great deal of time discussing undergraduate and graduate student activities within the MAA. The budget for 2007 contains a new position of Associate Director for Student Activities to direct such efforts.

The year 2007 will mark the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Euler. The MAA will celebrate the "Year of Euler" with a study tour in Switzerland, Russia and Germany.

They also will release four books about Euler. Two were released at the joint meetings: *The Genius of Euler: His Life and Works* by William Dunham and *The Early Mathematics of Leonhard Euler* by C. Edward Sandifur. Remember you can buy MAA books at our Section meetings. Not only do you get an extra discount, but the Section earns a little too.

While I am mentioning MAA publications, I will point you to the Classroom Resource Materials series. This series concentrates on publishing books for use by college teachers. The series was started in 1992 and now accounts for 38% of all MAA book sales. The success of the se-

ries is due in no small part to the editor Zaven Karian from Denison in our Section. Andy Sterrett from Denison preceded Zaven; Dave Kullman, Bill Higgins and I have been privileged to serve on the editorial board.

The most enjoyable part of the joint meetings is the people that you encounter. I saw former students who have now finished graduate school and gone on to math careers. Students from the Akron REU gave presentations and we shared a dinner together in a New Orleans place with lots of local color! I saw many of you at the meetings – presenting your work, chairing sessions, attending committee meetings and Project NExT activities – all the things that make the MAA a vital and relevant organization for our discipline.

Plan ahead to attend our spring meeting, and invite colleagues and students to join you. I look forward to seeing you.

Judith Palagallo  
Section Governor



## Nominations for Section Offices

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present **Vickie Van Dresar** (Ashland University) as the nominee for President-Elect. Vickie joined the Ashland University faculty in 1996. She has been the faculty advisor of Ashland University's student chapter of the MAA since 1998. She has served the Ohio Section as a member and chair of CONSACT and as a member of the Program Committee. She was chair of the Program Committee in 2004 - 2005. Vickie earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Shenandoah University (1981), an M.S. in Mathematics from the University of Akron (1993), and a Ph.D. in Educational Mathematics from the University of Northern Colorado (1996). She is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and has recently

been named the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs at Ashland University.

Prior to the spring meeting, the Nominating Committee will also name a nominee for a 3-year position on the Program Committee. At the time of this writing, however, the nominee has not yet been determined. Please check the Section web site, <http://www.maa.org/Ohio>, before the meeting, to see who the nominee will be.

The election will take place at the business meeting, Friday evening, April 13, 2007. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor.

Program Committee  
Mark Smith, Chair

### 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.

Editor:  
Carl Spitznagel 216-397-4683  
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Dept. of Math & Comp Science  
John Carroll University  
Cleveland OH 44118

Deadline for the next newsletter is  
**August 22, 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](mailto:dwick@ashland.edu)).

## President's Message

Hello everyone – Spring is almost here, and that surely conjures up good thoughts for most of us.

I attended the national meeting in New Orleans in January and, along with your Treasurer Bill Friel, sat in on the MAA Officers' meeting. Bill will report to you on the financial matters after our Friday banquet at Shawnee State, while I can report that much of what was said concerned all the Sections preparing for a review of their by-laws, and that each Section should do that on a 10-year rotating schedule. Also, some of the Sections have been experimenting with having a special session, held once during the year (ours would fit best during the Fall meeting) for graduate students to give presentations either on their research or some topic of interest. This would help prepare them for their thesis defense, or when job interviewing. In turn this could possibly provide the Ohio Section with some future members. I would welcome any comments about the feasibility of this venture.

Kudos go to Rich Daquila and his colleagues for a wonderful time this past Fall at Muskingum College. Everything progressed smoothly, and without any singularities – except perhaps the weather, which was rather wet. The featured speakers – David Singer, Curtis Bennett, and Bernd Sturmfels – presented marvelous talks, and we should be especially thankful to the program committee for their fine work. Lots of people deserve recognition for the success of our Section, such as those who took

on new challenging roles like Bill Higgins, Jay Kerns, Wiebke Diestelkamp, Darren Wick, Chuck Hampton, and Judy Palagallo. Then there were the veterans like Bill Friel, Dwight Olson, Mark Smith, Carl Spitznagel, Dave Kullman, Mark de Saint-Rat, Tom Price and John Zimmerman who continued to provide expert service to the Section. And, of course, praise is most deserving for the many volunteers serving on the Section's committees, headed by chairs Lisa Rome, Stephanie Edwards, Michelle Wiggins, Marsha Guntharp, and Barbara D'Ambrosia.

The Mathematics Departments at Wittenberg University, Marietta College, Capital University, Bowling Green State University, Baldwin-Wallace College, Kent State University, and Ursuline College have volunteered to provide and host the Section meetings for the next 3.5 years, of which we are most grateful. The Fall, 2007, meeting at Wittenberg is currently scheduled for October 26-27. Incidentally, I was just recently approached by the Indiana Section about collaborating on a joint meeting, which could prove exciting and enjoyable.

See you at Shawnee State on April 13.

*Thomas Dence  
Ashland University  
Section President*



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## Ohio Project NExT Spring 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, April 12, the night preceding the Ohio Section Spring Meeting, members of Ohio Project NExT will gather for a banquet at the Damon's restaurant in the Ramada Inn near Shawnee State University. This is a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. After the banquet, the NExTers will spend an hour or so discussing a topic related to the profession.

Then, on Friday morning, April 13, our NExT Workshop will be held on the Shawnee State University campus. The workshop will feature major speakers, along with contributed talks by NExT members. At last Fall's meeting, the NExT workshop at Muskingum College featured Al Stickney from Wittenberg University and Robert Smith from Miami University for the longer fifty-minute talks. At the spring 2006 Ohio Project NExT meeting, there were 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 spring 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@udayton.edu); Dale Mugler, University of Akron (dmugler@uakron.edu); and Chris Swanson, Ashland University (cswanson@ashland.edu).

*Dale Mugler*

## Student Team Competition

It's not too late to organize a student team to participate in the Ohio Section's fourth annual **Student Team Mathematics Competition**. Undergraduate students from institutions of the Ohio Section are invited to participate in the competition, which will take place on Friday, April 13, from Noon to 1:20, just prior to the start of the Spring Section Meeting. Student teams should report to the Flohr Lecture Hall in the Clark Memorial Library. Cash prizes will be awarded at the meeting to the top three teams. Complete rules and registration information, as well as copies of the questions from previous competitions, can be found on the web at <http://academic.udayton.edu/stephanieedwards/CONSTUM.htm>

Why not also encourage your students to blow the dust off their calculus books, and participate in the Ohio Section's first **Integration Bee**? The Bee will be held immediately following the student Pizza Party, on Friday, April 13. Advance registration for the Bee is not required. Integration Bee teams may consist of from one to three students.



## 2006 - 2007 Ohio Section Leadership

### ELECTED OFFICERS

#### President

Thomas Dence, Ashland University  
419-289-5262; tdence@ashland.edu

#### Past-President #1

Dwight Olson; John Carroll University  
216-397-4372; olson@jcu.edu

#### Past-President #2

Mark Smith, Miami University  
513-529-5818; smithma@muohio.edu

#### President-Elect

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

#### Section Governor

Judy Palagallo, University of Akron  
330-972-7402; palagallo@uakron.edu

#### Secretary

Mark De Saint-Rat, Miami-Middletown  
513-523-8896; desainme@muohio.edu

#### Treasurer (interim)

J. William Friel, University of Dayton  
937-229-3071; friel@udayton.edu

#### Treasurer-Elect

Charles Hampton, College of Wooster  
330-263-2486; hampton@wooster.edu

### OTHER OFFICERS

#### Department Liaisons Coordinator

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

#### Webmaster

Darren Wick, Ashland University  
419-281-7627; dwick@ashland.edu

#### On-line Registration

G. Jay Kerns, Youngstown State Univ.  
330-941-3310; gkerns@ysu.edu

#### Newsletter Editor

Carl Spitznagel, John Carroll University  
216-397-4683; spitz@jcu.edu

#### Ohio Project NExT Coordinator

Dale Mugler, University of Akron 2007  
330-972-5365; dmugler@uakron.edu

#### OhioMATYC Liaison to OhioMAA

Jim Anderson, University of Toledo  
(see next column)

419-530-3345  
jim.anderson@utoledo.edu

#### OhioMAA Liaison to OhioMATYC

Robert Hovis, Ohio Northern University  
419-772-2347; r-hovis@onu.edu

#### OCTM Liaison

David Wallach, University of Findlay  
419-424-4624; wallach@findlay.edu

#### 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 2007  
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

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

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

#### 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

Spring 2007 (April 13-14)

Shawnee State University  
Phil Blau  
pblau@shawnee.edu

Fall 2007 (October 26-27)

Wittenberg University  
Brian Shelburne  
bshelburne@wittenberg.edu

Spring 2008

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

Fall 2008

Capital University  
Tom Gearhart  
tgearhar@capital.edu

Spring 2009: Bowling Green  
Fall 2009: Baldwin-Wallace  
Spring 2010: Kent State

## Campus Notes

**Ashland University:** **Vickie Van Dresar** has been appointed the Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs with responsibilities including overseeing Ashland University's Core Curriculum, Introduction to University Life course, and International Perspectives requirement. The department has selected **Darren Wick** to be chair, with his term beginning this summer. **Iyad Ajwa** has been approved for promotion to (Full) Professor of Computer Science, effective at the beginning of the 2007-2008 academic year. **Cathy Stoffer** has been granted a Senior Study Leave for the Fall 2007 semester. The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science welcomed **Michael Collard** as a visiting computer science faculty member starting in Fall 2006.

**Bowling Green State University:** **Muni S. Srivastava** (University of Toronto) is our visiting Lukacs Professor this spring semester. We are also very pleased to have **Amadou Sarr** (University of Geneva), who is visiting us as Post Doctoral Fellow this spring and summer.

**Cleveland State University:** **Gregory Lupton** is the new chair of the Mathematics Department at CSU. **John Oprea** will be on professional leave during the Fall 2007 semester while **Luiz Felipe Martins** will be on professional leave during the 2007-2008 academic year.

**John Carroll University:** Retiring from the mathematics faculty at JCU, at the end of this academic year, will be **Dick Horwath** and **Dwight Olson**. Dick has been a member of the JCU Faculty since 1970. Dwight joined the Faculty in 1984. Both Dick and Dwight have been very active members of the Ohio Section, and have previously served terms as Section President. Following on its successful four-year participation in an NSF-funded Math and Science Partnership with the Cleveland Municipal School District, the John Carroll Mathematics Department has opened its Master of Arts program to middle grades math teachers from other area schools. The newest cohort, the fourth in this master's program, includes 16 middle school math teachers.

**Kent State University – Stark Campus:** **Angela Guercio** has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor in Computer Science. **Relja Vulcanovic** was promoted to full Professor of Mathematics. His research interests are in numerical analysis and mathematical linguistics. The department, together with the Math Club, organized the inaugural Stark County High School Mathematics Challenge in April 2006 and plans are under way for a similar event this year. Kent State University – Stark Campus now offers the full program for the B.A. in mathematics and is happy to announce its first graduating class in spring 2007.

**Oberlin College:** **Oliver Schirokauer**, who specializes in number theory, was promoted to Full Professor in December 2007. **Robert Bosch**, who specializes in Operations Research, was named the Robert & Eleanor Biggs Professor of Natural Science and Mathematics in spring 2007.

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## Coming up in Ohio

### Ohio Section Summer Short Course Java Applets in Teaching Mathematics

The 2007 Ohio Section Summer Short Course will be held from Wednesday to Friday, **June 20-22**, at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio (near Cleveland). The facilitator for the course will be Dr. Joe Yanik, professor at Emporia State University in Kansas. Dr. Yanik has given several popular Java workshops at MAA national and regional meetings. This short course will consist of daily lecture and laboratory sessions in the mornings and afternoons, starting with an introduction to Java and the Math Tool Kit and ending with participants creating their own activities for use in the classroom. Evenings will offer opportunities to visit such Cleveland attractions as The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, The Great Lakes Science Center, The Cleveland Museum of Art, or an Indians baseball game. Registration cost for the course is \$150 plus individual costs for housing and meals. For further information and registration see <http://www.maa.org/Ohio>.



### Miami University Annual Fall Conference Number Theory

The Thirty-fifth Annual Fall Conference will be held on **September 28-29, 2007**, in Oxford, Ohio. This year's theme will be "Number Theory," with featured speaker Bruce Berndt. Authors wishing to contribute a paper consistent with the theme of the conference should submit an abstract by September 4, 2007 to: Number Theory Conference, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056, (513) 529-5818; Fax: (513) 529-1493; or email the director Reza Akhtar ([reza@calico.mth.muohio.edu](mailto:reza@calico.mth.muohio.edu)) or check the web page: [www.miami.muohio.edu/mathstat](http://www.miami.muohio.edu/mathstat).

### Miami University Pi Mu Epsilon Student Conference

The Ohio Delta Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon will hold its thirty-fourth annual Student Conference on **September 28, 2007**. Undergraduate and graduate students are invited to contribute 15 or 30-minute papers on any mathematical science topic, and should contact Milt Cox, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio 45056, (513) 529-6648 or email [coxmd@muohio.edu](mailto:coxmd@muohio.edu)

### Fall Ohio Section Meeting

The Fall 2007 meeting of the Ohio Section will be held at Wittenberg University, in Springfield, Ohio, on **October 26-27, 2007**. Complete meeting details will appear in the Fall issue of Ohio Focus.

## Spring Meeting Program

*Registration and invited addresses will take place in the Clark Memorial Library.*

### Friday, April 13

12:00—4:30	Registration	<i>Library Rotunda</i>
12:00—1:20	Student Team Competition	<i>Flohr Lect. Hall, Library</i>
12:15—1:15	Committee Meetings:	<i>Massie Hall:</i>
	CONCUR	<i>Room 212</i>
	CONSACT	<i>Room 213</i>
	CONSTUM	<i>Room 214</i>
	CONTEAL	<i>Room 215</i>
1:00—4:30	Book Exhibits	<i>Library Rotunda</i>
1:30—1:45	Welcome & Announcements	
1:45—2:45	<b>Invited Address:</b>	<i>Flohr Lect. Hall, Library</i>
	“Preference Sets, Graphs, and Voting in Agreeable Societies”	
	Francis Edward Su,	
	Harvey Mudd College	
2:45—3:15	Break & refreshments	<i>Library Rotunda</i>
3:15—4:15	<b>Invited Address:</b>	<i>Flohr Lect. Hall, Library</i>
	“Euler, Number Theorist”	
	Daniel E. Otero,	
	Xavier University	
4:25—6:20	<b>Contributed Paper Sessions</b>	<i>Kricker Hall</i>
4:25—6:20	Executive Committee meeting	<i>Kricker Hall</i>
6:30—8:00	<b>Student Pizza Party and Integration Bee</b>	<i>Banquet Hall, University Center</i>
6:20—6:45	<b>Social time, cash bar</b>	<i>Vern Riffe Center</i>
6:45—8:00	<b>Banquet</b>	<i>for the Arts</i>
8:10—8:50	<b>After-Dinner Talk:</b>	<i>Flohr Lect. Hall, Library</i>
	“My Favorite Math Fun Facts”	
	Francis Edward Su,	
	Harvey Mudd College	
8:50	<b>Business meeting and Presentation of Section Teaching Award</b>	

### Saturday, April 14

8:00—10:15	Registration, book exhibits	<i>Library Rotunda</i>
8:00—8:50	Coffee and donuts	<i>Library Rotunda</i>
8:05—8:40	Executive Committee meeting continuation (if necessary)	<i>Lib. Rm. 205</i>
8:05—8:40	Meeting of Department Liaisons and Chairs	<i>Lib. Rm. 207</i>
8:50—8:55	Announcements	
8:55—9:55	<b>Invited Address:</b>	<i>Flohr Lect. Hall, Library</i>
	“Curious Curves”	
	Judith Palagallo,	
	The University of Akron	
9:55—10:15	Break & refreshments	<i>Library Rotunda</i>
10:25—12:00	<b>Contributed Paper Sessions</b>	<i>Kricker Hall</i>
12:10—1:10	<b>Retiring President’s Address:</b>	<i>Flohr Lect. Hall, Library</i>
	“A Tantalizing Trek through Elementary Number Theory”	
	Thomas Dence,	
	Ashland University	
1:10—1:15	Student Competition Awards and Closing remarks	

For additional meeting information, see below through page 11.

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

## Meeting Registration

Online registration is preferred. Visit the Section web site at [www.maa.org/Ohio](http://www.maa.org/Ohio) on or after February 26 for one-stop registration, banquet reservation, and abstract submission. The deadline for meeting pre-registration and banquet reservations is **April 6**. Abstracts for contributed papers must be submitted by **March 30**.

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 Clark Memorial Library’s rotunda, which is immediately to the left as one enters the building before the entrance to library collection itself. The rotunda is a gathering area outside of the Flohr Lecture Hall, which is where the main talks will be held. Registration will be held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Meeting participants who are unable to register online at [www.maa.org/Ohio](http://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 (\$20 per person; indicate the buffet choice or vegetarian choice)] to: Ohio Section MAA Fall Meeting, c/o Dr. Phil Blau, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Shawnee State University, 940 Second Street, Portsmouth, OH 45662. Phone (740-351-3443), FAX (740-351-3584). Registration by FAX or e-mail will be pending upon receipt of registration fees.



## Francis Edward Su “Preference Sets, Graphs, and Voting in Agreeable Societies”

When mathematical objects have a social interpretation, the associated theorems have social applications. We give examples of situations where sets model preferences, and suggest extensions of classical theorems on convex sets (such as Helly’s theorem) which have applications to the analysis of voting in “agreeable” societies. This talk features research with undergraduates.

## “My Favorite Math Fun Facts”

For several years, I have been collecting “Math Fun Facts”, which are juicy math tidbits that I have been using to start off my calculus classes, as a warm-up activity. Math Fun Facts can be from any area of mathematics (not just calculus), can be presented in less than 5 minutes, and are meant to arouse my students’ curiosity and fascination with the subject and to give them a glimpse that mathematics is full of interesting ideas, patterns, and new modes of thinking. In this talk, I will present my favorite Math Fun Facts. They’re definitely fun, but will they be YOUR favorites? You decide.

**Francis Edward Su** earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. at Harvard University. He is now Professor of Mathematics at Harvey



Mudd College, and he has also held visiting positions at Cornell and MSRI. His recent research is in topological and geometric combinatorics and applications to the so-

cial sciences, and he has co-authored more than a dozen papers with undergraduates. He has a passion for teaching and popularizing mathematics. From the MAA, he received the 2001 Merten M. Hasse Prize for expository writing and the 2004 Henry L. Alder Award for distinguished teaching. He is an MAA Project NExT “blue dot” and serves on editorial boards of the American Mathematical Monthly and Math Horizons. In his spare time he enjoys working on his “Math Fun Facts” website. He also enjoys songwriting, sports, and is active in a unique Christian community in LA known as Mosaic, where he can just be himself – passion not stifled by expectation, worth not derived from accomplishments.

## Judith Palagallo “Curious Curves”

Self-similar curves date at least to Koch’s work in 1904. They are also associated with names like Levy, Sierpinski, Gosper and Cesaro. These mathematicians referred to such curves as “curious” and “marvelous” because of the property that the curves consist of parts similar to the whole. Interest has not diminished over the years. Intriguing computer-generated drawings of such curves abound in the literature. I’ll present two generalizations of the Koch curve and discuss some of their curious properties.

**Judith Palagallo** received her Ph.D. from Colorado State University.

She joined The University of Akron in 1978. Recently, she has been interested in fractal geometry and its basis in analysis and has directed several undergraduate research projects in this area. She



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## Daniel E. Otero “Euler, Number Theorist”

In 1730, Leonhard Euler had been established at the St. Petersburg Academy of Sciences for less than a year when he started to receive correspondence from Christian Goldbach in Moscow, who was tutor to the young Russian Tsar Peter II. Goldbach made Euler aware of the number theoretic investigations of Pierre de Fermat, who was the first in more than 1000 years to systematically study the finding of solutions to algebraic problems in integers alone, but who had been dead already for some 50 years. Almost immediately, Euler followed up on Fermat’s work, correcting his few mistakes, filling in gaps in his proofs, extending his conjectures, and probing in new directions. Through Euler’s contributions the tenuous threads of the development of number theory that had been spun by Fermat now became sturdy ropes that linked Euler to later practitioners like Lagrange, Legendre and especially Gauss, thereby leading into the modern phase of the history of the subject. In this address, we celebrate the Euler Tricentennial with a look at Euler the number theorist.



**Daniel E. Otero** is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Xavier University. His years as an undergraduate at Providence College taught him that mathematics was trustworthy knowledge,

but ultimately meaningless unless one appreciated not only why it worked, but why one would be interested in such problems in the first place. This placed him on the road to the serious study of the history of mathematics. Trained in algebra and number theory, Danny received his Ph.D. at Penn State University in 1987 and, after a postdoc at Syracuse University, came to Xavier in 1989. In 1998, after participating in the MAA Institute for the History of Mathematics and Its Uses in Teaching under V. Fred Rickey and Victor Katz, he became cofounder, with Daniel J. Curtin at Northern Kentucky University, of the

ORESME (Ohio River Early Sources in Mathematical Exposition) Reading Group, a seminar that meets twice a year to read historically important works in the development of mathematics. Danny is a sometime chorister (baritone) and lover of early music, an avid bridge and Scrabble player, and a big fan of the new Sci-Fi series Battlestar Galactica.

is a participant in the Akron REU site “Algebra, Number Theory and Applications” which will run for its third year this summer. In the Ohio Section, Judy has been President, Program Chair, and chair of CONSTUM and is now Section Governor. She just completed two terms on the editorial board of the MAA series Classroom Resource Materials and is now on the editorial board for Classroom Notes. Judy is also involved in a mentoring program for teenage girls in Summit County. She retired from teaching at UA in August 2006. In the fall she and her husband Tom Price taught for 9 weeks in Austria at the Vienna Christian Center

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### Thomas Dence

#### “A Tantalizing Trek through Elementary Number Theory”

During the course of roughly 2000 years we’ll meet many of the luminaries from Number Theory, discuss some of their great contributions on such subjects as solving equations and congruences, the distribution of primes, and applications involving continued fractions and some special number theoretic functions. Several classic results will be shown along with some modern results, and some slick proofs.

**Thomas Dence** is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He attended Bowling Green State University, and then received a Masters degree from the University of Colorado. After 3 years of high school teaching, he returned to grad school and earned a Ph.D. in Analysis at Colorado State University. After a post-doc at New Mexico State University, Tom was hired at the Firelands branch campus of Bowling Green. Visiting positions at Southern Utah, Cal State/ Los Angeles, and the University of Georgia followed. Tom has now been at Ashland University for 23 years. His wife Kathe is a recruiter in the Human Resources Department at Firelands Hospital in Sandusky; oldest son Robert (a recent grad of University of Dayton) is now an engineer in Denver with Lockheed-Martin Aerospace; middle son Paul is a radiology technologist in Sandusky/Norwalk; and youngest son Dan is a sophomore business major at Ohio State. The dog, Euler, usually stays home and works on his problems/bones.



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### Call for Contributed Papers

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

Contributors should send a title and a brief abstract by March 30, 2007. 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](mailto: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.

Each presentation room will have an overhead projector, blackboard, and a computer projector to which one can plug in a laptop. Speakers with specific questions about technology needed for contributed talks should contact Phil Blau, [pblau@shawnee.edu](mailto:pblau@shawnee.edu).

### Banquet

The Friday, April 13, banquet will be held in the Grand Lobby of the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts. The banquet will feature a buffet with two meat choices, with a vegetarian entrée available for those who request one in advance, as well as salad, two sides, and dessert. The cost of the buffet is \$20. A social time, which will include a cash bar, will precede the banquet in the same location.

*Note:* Students attending the meeting are invited to attend the **Student Pizza Party and Integration Bee** (at no charge), which will be held in the Banquet Hall of the University Center, concurrently with the banquet. At the conclusion of the pizza party and bee, students are invited and encouraged to attend the after-dinner talk, business meeting, and announcement of the teaching award winner. Those events will take place in the Flohr Lecture Hall, in the Clark Memorial Library.

### Publishers’ Exhibits

Several commercial publishers will exhibit their wares on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, in the Rotunda of the Clark Memorial Library.

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?



*Kricker Hall  
Site of the Contributed  
Paper Sessions*



## Student Activities at the Meeting

### Call for Student Talks

Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts for 15-minute talks at the Spring Meeting. Topics may be drawn from any area of mathematics or a related discipline. The presentation may be an expository talk, a recounting of a mathematical internship or a co-op experience, or the results of a research project. It is expected that each talk will be delivered by a single speaker. Co-authors will be listed in the program. Each student speaker will receive a free one-year MAA membership.

Contributed talks by students, faculty, and others will be given on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Talks will be scheduled primarily according to topic and audience level. Student talks are an integral part of the meeting and should be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for all who participate. Students preparing talks are encouraged to read Joseph Gallian's article "How to Give a Good Talk" in the April, 1998, *Math Horizons*. This article is available at <http://www.jcu.edu/math/constum/gallian.pdf>.

Each presentation room will have an overhead projector, blackboard, and a computer projector to which one can

plug in a laptop. Speakers with specific questions about technology needed for contributed talks should contact Phil Blau, [pblau@shawnee.edu](mailto:pblau@shawnee.edu).

Abstracts should be between 25 and 75 words in length and should employ proper English grammar and spelling. Students are strongly encouraged to use the abstract submission form on the MAA Ohio Section meeting registration page (<http://www.maa.org/Ohio>). Otherwise, a title and abstract may be submitted 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](mailto: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. If submitting an abstract by mail or e-mail, please include your name, institution, e-mail address, student status (junior, senior, etc.), the title of the talk, and a brief description of the presentation.

Abstracts must be received by **March 30, 2007**. Due to time and space restrictions, we may not be able to accommodate all talks. Please submit your abstracts early. Students submitting abstracts should also register for the meeting.

### Pizza Party and Integration Bee

A student pizza party will be held Friday evening at 6:30 in the Micklethwaite Banquet Hall of the University Center. There is no charge, but meeting registration is necessary. See the Section web page ([www.maa.org/Ohio](http://www.maa.org/Ohio)) for online registration. After the pizza party there will be an integration bee. For more information about the integration bee and student activities at the meeting, see <http://academic.udayton.edu/stephanieedwards/CONSTUM.htm>

### Student Team Competition

Undergraduate students from institutions of the Ohio Section are invited to participate in the fourth annual Student Team Competition. The competition will take place on **Friday from Noon to 1:20**, in the Flohr Lecture Hall of the Clark Memorial Library. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, at the conclusion of the meeting on Saturday. Rules and registration information, as well as copies of the problems and solutions from the first three competitions, can be found on the web, at <http://academic.udayton.edu/stephanieedwards/CONSTUM.htm>

### Campus Notes (cont. from p. 5)

**Sinclair Community College:** Al Giambrone, the department chair, will be retiring at the end of winter quarter 2007. Al joined the department in 1972 and became chair in 1994. **Michelle Harris**, who was the lab coordinator in the department since 1986, retired at the end of fall quarter 2006. **Wendy Cheng** was hired as an Annually Contracted Faculty member in fall 2006.

**The University of Akron** will be a leading partner in a new Ohio Board of Regents initiative that encourages the state's top high school students to pursue teaching careers in science, technology, engineering and math—the so-called STEM fields—while earning college credits at no charge. The university will conduct a five-week summer academy in math through its Northeast Ohio Center for Excellence for Mathematics and Science Teacher Education. NEOCE is a partnership of UA, Cleveland State, Kent State and Youngstown State. **Ali Hajjafar** of The University of Akron is the director. Cleveland State will be a partner with UA in the summer academy. UA will receive

\$340,000 to conduct the residential program, which will include classes, mentoring and visits to sites such as the National Inventors Hall of Fame. The UA academy is part of a \$3.5 million regents' program that creates 10 STEM and foreign language academies for students entering 11th and 12th grades.

**University of Cincinnati:** After 35 years of service, **Charles (Chuck) Groetsch** is leaving UC to become Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics at The Citadel (the Military College of South Carolina) in Charleston, SC.

**University of Dayton:** **Atif Abueida** has been awarded tenure, effective August 2007. **Stephanie Edwards**, **Pete Hovey** and **Becky Krakowski** have been approved for promotion to Associate Professor, also effective August 2007. The University of Dayton will hold its biennial undergraduate mathematics conference, Undergraduate Mathematics Day, in the fall of 2007. Details about the conference will be posted at <http://academic.udayton.edu/MathEvents/>

## Directions to Shawnee State University

Shawnee State University is located in Portsmouth, Ohio, along the Ohio River, 89 miles south of Columbus.

**From Cincinnati:** Take S.R. 32 east to US 23. Go south on US 23 to Portsmouth. Turn left on Third St.

**From Dayton:** Take US 35 south to US 23. Go south on US 23 to Portsmouth. Turn left on Third St.

**From Northern Ohio:** Take your usual route to Columbus, and then take I-270 south. Exit I-270 at US 23, and travel south on US 23 to Portsmouth. Turn left on Third St.

**From Huntington, WV:** Take US 52 west to US 23 in Portsmouth. Go south on US 23 to Third St., and turn left on Third St.

## Parking

You may park in any of the student or visitor lots (labeled F on the campus map). Additionally, after 5:00 pm on Friday you may park in the faculty/staff lots (labeled D and E on the map). As long as you park in a legitimate spot there is no need for a parking permit.

## Campus Map

A high-quality color version of the campus map below is available on the local arrangements web site. Begin at the Section web site, <http://www.maa.org/Ohio>, and click on "Information" about the 2007 Spring Meeting. Please note that the map is oriented with north pointing to the lower right.

## Hotels

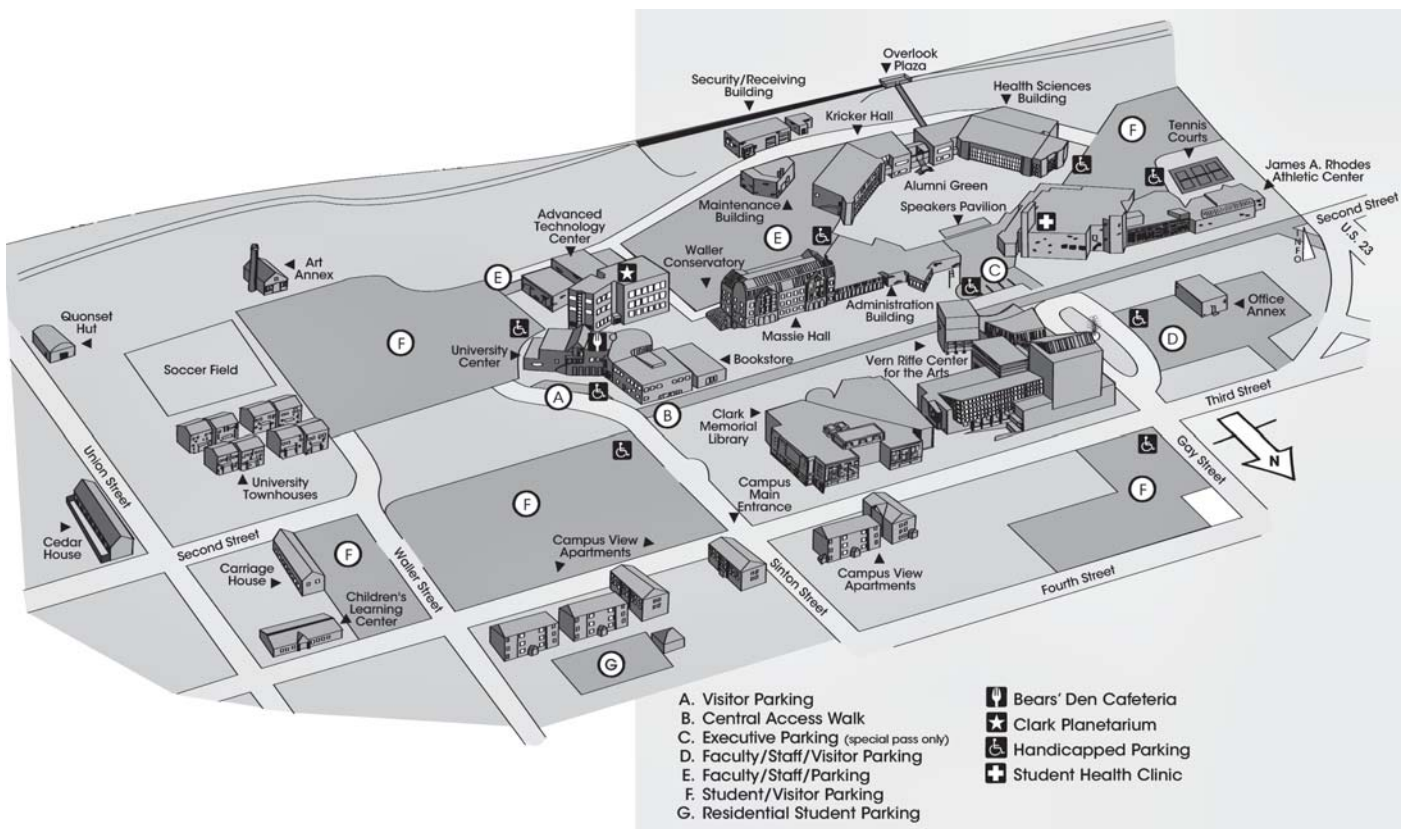
**Important Note:** Because of another event in the Portsmouth area on the same weekend, some of the hotels will release their rooms earlier than usual. Meeting participants are urged to make reservations, using the indicated code word or number, by the stated deadlines, to assure room availability.

**Ramada Inn** (across street from SSU):  
711 Second Street  
Portsmouth, OH 45662  
740-354-7711  
Rate of \$66.00. Need to mention Ohio Math or give code P49846. Held until March 13.

**Days Inn** (about 4 miles from campus):  
3762 US Route 23  
Portsmouth, OH 45662  
740-354-2851  
Rates of \$69.95 single; \$79.95 double. Need to mention Ohio Math. Held until March 1.

*continued on page 11*

## Shawnee State University



**Holiday Inn Express:** (about 5 miles from campus):  
5100 Old Scioto Trail  
Portsmouth, OH 45662  
740-353-3232  
Rate of \$75. Need block code OMC (Ohio Math Conference). Held until March 25.

**Super 8 Motel** (about 4 miles from campus):  
4266 Old Scioto Trail  
Portsmouth, OH 45622  
740-353-8880  
Rate of \$68, subject to availability. Need to mention Ohio Math. Held until February 28.

**Comfort Inn:** (about 10 miles from campus):  
8226 Ohio River Road  
Wheelersburg, OH 45694  
740-574-1046  
Rate of \$57.59. Need to mention Ohio Math. Held until March 25.

**Shawnee State Park Lodge** (about 15 miles from campus):  
4404 B State Route 125  
West Portsmouth, OH 45630  
740-858-6621  
Rate of \$95 for any room. Need to mention Ohio Math.

**Days Inn:** (about 10 miles from campus):  
8340 Ohio River Road  
Wheelersburg, OH 45694  
740-574-8431  
Rate of \$59. Need to mention Ohio Math. Held until March 13.

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### **New Orleans Meetings Raise \$10,000 for Second Harvest**

The 2007 Joint Mathematics Meetings raised \$10,000 for Second Harvest in New Orleans. These funds were used for the Second Harvest Food Bank Backpack Program. The Backpack program provides food for children, who would otherwise go hungry, by issuing them a backpack filled with food to take home for the weekend and out-of-school times. Backpacks are stocked with nutritious, child-friendly food. We are pleased that we could help Second Harvest by making this donation. Thank you to everyone who bought a tee-shirt, a raffle ticket or gave a donation.

## **About Shawnee State University**

Shawnee State University prepares students for the challenges of a career and the duties of society through more than 80 bachelor's and associate degree programs in such diverse fields of study as education, the arts, business, engineering technology, health services and video game design. In the fall of 2006 the university inaugurated its first graduate program, a master's degree in occupational therapy.

At Shawnee State excellence is our common goal. Shawnee State is a university of opportunity that enrolls students with a broad array of talents and backgrounds, but all students who attend Shawnee State accept the challenge of striving for personal excellence. They do so in a supportive academic environment, guided by top-flight faculty members who are dedicated to the mission of teaching their students. Enrollment at Ohio's newest four-year university continues to grow and is currently 3,900 students. Shawnee State is located in Portsmouth, on a beautifully-landscaped 52-acre campus overlooking the Ohio River.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at Shawnee State University provides undergraduate mathematics education for students throughout the university. Within the general education program, students get an acquaintance with the importance of mathematics, and experiences with its role in our society. The Department also provides further mathematical education for students whose academic programs require it and for students who wish to specialize in mathematics. The Department currently has about 80 declared majors, of whom a substantial majority are preparing for teaching licenses. In addition to close faculty-student working relations, the Department features an extensive tutoring program, and modern student computing facilities.

The Department is pleased to welcome you to Shawnee State University for the Spring 2007 Meeting of the Ohio Section.

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### **College Mathematics Journal Editor Search**

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) seeks to identify candidates to succeed Lowell Beineke as Editor of the College Mathematics Journal when his term expires in December 2008. Applicants should submit a resume, names of three references, and a statement of interest containing their ideas about the journal. Review of applications will begin on March 15, 2007 with appointment as Editor-elect to commence on January 1, 2008. The five-year editorial term runs January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2013. See the MAA web site for further information. Send inquiries and applications to Arthur Benjamin, Department of Mathematics, Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA 91711 (benjamin@hmc.edu).

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### **MathFest 2007 San Jose, California August 3-5**

Join your colleagues this summer at MathFest, the MAA's Annual Summer Meeting.

This year's MathFest will be a celebration of mathematics, mathematical biology, and the history of mathematics, a program rich with varied events and activities for mathematicians, teachers, students, and everyone who loves mathematics!

This year we will be meeting jointly with Pi Mu Epsilon, the Society for Mathematical Biology, the Euler Society, and the Women Count Conference. Registration will be available online, beginning April 2, 2007. For more information, see the MAA web site at <http://www.maa.org>.

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

**October 26-27, 2007**

(Note change from previously published dates.)

**Wittenberg University  
Springfield, OH**



## Calendar

### Ohio Section

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

Ohio Section Short Course, June 20-22, 2007, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH

Fall Section Meeting, October 26-27, 2007, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH (Note change from previously published dates.)

### National MAA-AMS

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

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

### Other

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

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

Indiana Section, March 23-24, 2007, University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

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

Allegheny Mountain Section, April 13-14, 2007, Mercyhurst College, Erie, PA

Michigan Section, May 4-5, 2007, University of Michigan - Dearborn, Dearborn, MI

Joint Statistical Meetings, July 29-August 2, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT.

Miami University 35th Annual Fall Conference, September 28-29, 2007, Miami University, Oxford, OH

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

Indiana Section, October 27, 2007, Manchester College, North Manchester, IN

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

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

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