



OHIO FOCUS

The MAA Ohio Section Newsletter

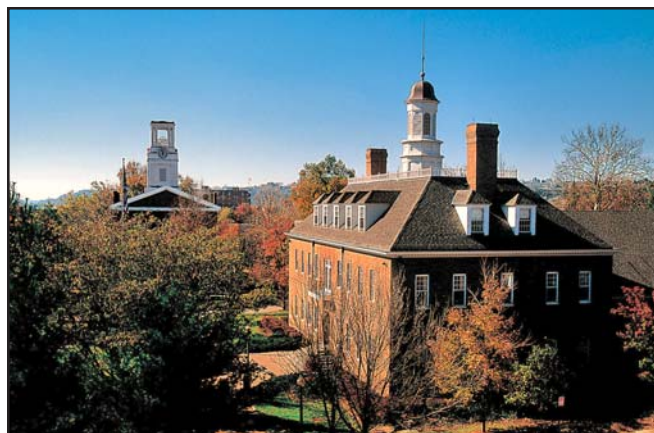
Volume 8

Spring 2008

Number 6

Spring Meeting at Marietta College April 11-12, 2008

The Spring Meeting of the Ohio Section of the MAA will be held at Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, on April 11-12, 2008. The meeting will begin at noon on Friday, with the first invited address at 1:45 pm in the McDonough Auditorium, Room 131 of the McDonough Center, and will conclude at 12:50 pm on Saturday. Major addresses will be given by invited speakers **Bill Higgins** of Wittenberg University, **Lew Lefton** of Georgia Tech, and **Carl Pomerance** of Dartmouth College. Other meeting participants, including students, are encouraged to submit talks for the contributed paper sessions on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. A student problem-solving competition, a Friday evening banquet, and a student pizza party with a graduate school panel discussion are also planned as part of the meeting.



McDonough 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 **April 4**. Abstracts for contributed papers must be submitted by **March 28**.

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 take place in the 3rd Floor Gallery of the McDonough Center for Leadership and Business. 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 (\$20 per person)] to: Ohio Section MAA Spring Meeting, c/o Jaquelyn Lane, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Marietta College, Marietta, OH 45750. Phone (740-376-4820), FAX (740-376-4808). Registration by FAX or e-mail will be pending upon receipt of registration fees.

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President's Message

Greetings! I hope you are enjoying your spring semester. I'm sure you're looking forward to the actual arrival of spring and our meeting at Marietta College. Don Hunt and the program committee have an excellent program in store for us. Please plan to attend and bring your students with you! As most of you know, our Section has a long history of success in encouraging undergraduate student participation.

I'd like to thank the folks in Marietta in advance for all their hard work associated with hosting a meeting. And I'd like to thank my colleagues at Wittenberg for all they did as hosts of the meeting this past fall. I thought the meeting was a great success. However, there was one hitch that you may remember if you attended the banquet. We had to wait a very long time for the food to arrive. It seems that SODEXHO food service had scheduled more events than they could comfortably handle that evening. To make up for the delay SODEXHO has kindly promised to make a \$1000 donation to the Ohio Section. On behalf of the Ohio Section, I'd like to thank them for this gesture.

“The MAA is committed to continuous strategic planning.”

Chuck Hampton and I represented the Ohio Section at the January section officers meeting during the Joint Math Meetings in cold and rainy San Diego. Math meeting participants found out that the song lyric, “It never rains in California, but girl, don't they warn ya? It pours, man, it pours,” was right! My wife, Aparna, and I repeatedly got soaked walking from our hotel to the convention center. At the section officers meeting, MAA President Joe Gallian told us

that the MAA is committed to continuous strategic planning. As part of that process each section has been asked to formulate responses to the following questions: What are the five things the Association should expect from your section? What are the five things your section expects from the Association? How does your section provide for leadership transition and continuity of the section's knowledge base? How can the Association help your section make effective leadership transitions? Written responses to these questions are requested from the sections during MathFest 2008.

Of course the Executive Committee will consider these questions, but we would welcome input from other members. So if you have ideas about what you believe the Ohio Section should expect from the MAA or ideas about responses to any of the other questions, please forward them to me.

The Section does make an attempt to provide for continuity of its knowledge base. For example, Barbara D'Ambrosia put

together a detailed checklist and timeline of what one needs to do to host an Ohio Section meeting. This document was approved by the Executive Committee at the fall meeting and can be found on our website. Please consider this to be a living document. If your institution hosts a meeting and you have suggestions about how that document could be improved, please send them along to the Section president so that the document may be amended.

Joe Gallian also encouraged us to promote nominations for the teaching awards sponsored by the MAA. He said that some sections and selection committees have noted a shortage of nominations. The Ohio Section is not immune to such concerns. You can find information about nominating someone for our Section Teaching Award at the Section website, www.maa.org/Ohio, and in each fall Section newsletter. Putting together a nomination may take some time, but I believe it is well worth the effort. And if a nomination you submit is unsuccessful, it could be easily updated to be resubmitted the next year. I also encourage you to consider whether one of your younger colleagues would make a good candidate for the Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching that is given to faculty who have taught at most 7 years. You may recall that Chris Swanson from Ashland received one of these awards a couple of years ago. Information about the award and how to submit a nomination can be found at http://www.maa.org/awards/alder_award.html. Please be sure to come to see the 2008 Ohio Section Teaching Award winner honored at the Marietta meeting!

This past fall we encouraged graduate students to give talks at the Section meeting and offered them a modest amount of travel support. This effort met with modest success since two graduate students gave talks, but a total of twelve graduate students attended the meeting and that sounds more encouraging. Perhaps with patience the numbers will rise. Anecdotal evidence from the section officers meeting suggests that our section is not alone in having difficulty attracting graduate student participation at meetings. If you have graduate students at your institution, I hope you will do what you can to encourage them to attend Section meetings.

The Section is fairly well set with sites for future meetings, and Kenyon College has recently agreed to host the Fall Meeting in 2011. If your institution is interested in hosting a future meeting, please let me or Vickie Van Dresar, our President-Elect, know. And if you are looking for something to do this summer, I encourage you to consider taking part in the Ohio Section Summer Short Course on June 18-20, 2008 at Xavier University. You can find information about the course elsewhere in this newsletter.

As my term as President comes to an end I would like to thank all of the people listed on the page of this newsletter headed “2007-2008 Ohio Section Leadership.” Working with them has been a pleasure.

Bill Higgins
Section President



Section Governor's Report

As spring approaches, I look forward to the Ohio Section meeting where I will see many of you again. Since the meeting is in southern Ohio, I look forward to seeing some signs of springtime as well. As an escape from the Ohio winter, I attended the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego in January. Another important reason to attend the meetings is to be part of the MAA Board of Governors all-day session preceding the meetings. I will outline some of the highlights of the session that I think may be of interest to you.

The MAA launched its new MAA Textbooks series with Zaven Karian from the Ohio Section as Editor. This new addition enhances the MAA superb book series, electronic publications and periodicals. Look for more online publications in the future.



The Association under Treasurer John Kenelly continues to simplify financial reports. Total assets have continued to increase, but the MAA will end the year with an operating deficit. Some discussion centered on "green investing" for the future. I will spare you the details, but soon a Treasurer's section will be posted on the MAA website. It will be in the members only section and will update financial information about the organization.

Many of you are concerned with assessment issues in your departments. The MAA has developed some new resources available at www.maa.org/SAUM. The site has guidelines for departments and links to other publications supporting undergraduate assessment.

The MAA's Professional Enhancement Program (PREP) provides a range of activities to support growth for mathematicians at all stages of their careers. Whether you are seeking new ideas for research and teaching, development of leadership skills or simply looking for a chance to interact with colleagues, PREP has a program for you. The courses for this summer include Inquiry-based learning, Wavelets, Biocalculus, and Expository Writing. To learn more about the programs, see www.maa.org/PREP.

Students are an important part of the present MAA and are the future of the organization. We are committed to being the preeminent resource for all students of mathematics and the faculty who teach them. President Joe Gallian has the goal of 1000 undergraduates attending MathFest in 2015. I applaud the Ohio Section for its creative programming for students. Our Committee on Student Members consistently puts together events that attract students, catch their interest, and encourage them to return (and bring their friends) in future years. Continue to encourage your students to attend Section meetings, and also MathFest and the Joint Meetings. The programs will have plenty to interest them. The MAA has received a grant from the NSF to fund student travel for the next 5 years. Check the MAA website for details.

You have probably noticed, even from my report, that the MAA website is redesigned and expanded. New items appear daily to make the news and information offerings more timely. I encourage you to take advantage of this resource.

I look forward to seeing you in Marietta. Check the end of this newsletter for dates and locations of future meetings. Plan to attend and bring your students.

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.

Editor (beginning Fall, 2008):
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John Carroll University
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Deadline for the next newsletter is

August 25, 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).

Student Team Competition

Why not organize a student team to participate in the Ohio Section's fifth 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 11, from noon to 1:20, just prior to the start of the Spring Section Meeting. Student teams should report to Andrews Hall, Room 203. 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 Section web site, <http://www.maa.org/Ohio>.

New Newsletter Editor

Beginning with the Fall, 2008, issue, OhioFocus will have a new newsletter editor. Having served as editor for the past three years, I am passing the baton to Barbara D'Ambrosia, of John Carroll University. Please send articles and other correspondence about the newsletter to her, at bdambrosia@jcu.edu. The deadline for the fall issue is August 25.

I would like to extend my thanks to the many able editors who preceded me—especially Dwight Olson, who established the name and current format of OhioFocus; Tom Hern, who served as editor for six years and introduced the presently used typesetting system; and Bill Higgins, who taught me everything I know about PageMaker!

Carl Spitznagel

Campus Notes

Bowling Green State University: Kit C. Chan is the new Chair and Barbara Moses is the new Assistant Chair.

Case-Western Reserve University: Professors Elizabeth Meckes and Mark Meckes have joined the department as new faculty as of last summer. Elizabeth, whose PhD is from Stanford, studied probability with Professor Persi Diaconis. She is the recipient of a Clay Math Institute "liftoff" award and the AIM five year fellowship. Mark Meckes received his PhD from CWRU, where he studied Functional Analysis and Convexity Theory with Professor Stan Szarek; he comes to Case after an instructorship at Stanford. Professor Teresa Contenza has joined the department as lecturer; she supervises remedial, calculus, and accelerated classes, as well as coaching for the Putnam competition. Her Ph.D. thesis, *Some Results on the Dominating Set Polytope*, was written at the University of Kentucky under the supervision of Professor Carl Lee. She comes to us from Otterbein College. Professor Stan Szarek was the recipient of Langevin Prize of the French Academy of Sciences this past fall. Professor Dong-Hoon Lee retired from CWRU this past summer. He received his Ph.D. from Tulane University in 1967, and spent most of his academic career at Case. The newest Ohio Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon was inaugurated this past fall at CWRU. Professor Donald Knuth became the first honorary member of the chapter at a ceremony in San Jose at the summer meeting. Faculty advisors for the chapter are Professor Chris Butler and Professor David Singer.

Denison University: Sir Randolph Bacon III (cousin-in-law to Colin Adams, of Williams College) will give a talk titled "Blown Away: What Knot to Do When Sailing" at 7:30 p.m. on March 27, 2008, at Denison University. Subtitle: "Being a tale of adventure on the high seas involving great risk to the tale teller, and how an understanding of the mathematical theory of knots saved his bacon." No nautical or mathematical background is assumed. Contact Lew Ludwig (ludwigl@denison.edu) for more information.

John Carroll University: Jerry Moreno will retire at the end of this academic year, having served JCU for forty years. In addition to serving as the department's main statistician, Jerry has been active in numerous educational initiatives at both the statewide and national levels. He was also the recipient of the Ohio Section's teaching award in 2000.

Otterbein College: Leigh Slauson recently completed her PhD in Mathematics Education (emphasis is Statistics Education) and will participate in the March commencement at OSU. Her thesis is titled *Students' Conceptual Understanding of Variability*. Aderaw Fenta joined the department last fall as a visiting instructor in mathematics. His research interests are in classical analysis, functional analysis and operator theory. He is completing his PhD in Mathematics this year at Kent State.

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Coming up in Ohio

Ohio Section Summer Short Course *Study the Masters: Using Primary, Historical Sources in Teaching and Research*

The MAA Ohio Section Summer Short Course, entitled *Study The Masters: Using Primary, Historical Sources In Teaching And Research*, led by Dr. Danny Otero of Xavier University and Dr. David Pengelley of New Mexico State University, will take place **June 18-20, 2008** at Xavier University, in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Danny Otero

Participants in this three-day workshop will learn about teaching



David Pengelley

with primary historical sources in mathematics and will be given the opportunity to prepare some primary sources of their own choosing to use in their own classrooms.

They will also see how reading, studying, and teaching with primary sources can lead to scholarship in history of mathematics.

Registration is \$175.00. There is a limit of 25 participants and a deadline of May 19, 2008. To register send \$50.00 deposit (made check payable to Xavier University) to Daniel E. Otero, Department of Mathematics & Computer Science, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH 45207-4441. Include contact information and home institution with your deposit. For more details or any questions please contact Danny Otero at otero@xavier.edu, or (513) 745-2012.

Additional information can be found from a link on the MAA Ohio Section website, www.maa.org/Ohio. More detailed information will appear on the short course web site at www.cs.xu.edu/~otero/2008ShortCourse/. Please check this site frequently as the time for the short course approaches.

Fall Ohio Section Meeting

The Fall 2008 meeting of the Ohio Section will be held at Capital University, in Columbus, Ohio, on **October 24-25, 2008**. Complete meeting details will appear in the Fall issue of Ohio Focus.

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, April 10, the night preceding the Ohio Section Spring Meeting, members of Ohio Project NExT will gather for a banquet at the Lafayette Hotel in Marietta, 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, April 11, the Ohio NExT program will continue on the Marietta College campus. The program will feature a workshop by Barbara Margolius from Cleveland State University and a workshop by Leo Schneider from John Carroll University, along with contributed talks by NExT members. At last fall's meeting, the NExT workshop at Wittenberg University featured Carl Spitznagel from John Carroll University and Mark Miller from Marietta College for the fifty-minute workshops. Adam Parker (Wittenberg) and Wiebke Diestelkamp (Dayton) gave 20-minute talks.

Ohio Project NExT is open to anyone in the Ohio Section who is in his/her first five years of teaching in Ohio. If this applies to you, please consider joining us this spring 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 (john_prather@skynet.eastern.ohiou.edu); and Chris Swanson, Ashland University (cswanson@ashland.edu).

Nominations for Section Offices

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present **Mark Miller** (Marietta College) as the nominee for President-Elect. Mark received his Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado and is currently an Associate Professor at Marietta, having joined the faculty there in 1999. Since 2004 he has been the



Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and is also currently serving his second year as Chair of the Faculty. During his first five years of teaching at Marietta, Mark was active in Ohio Project NExT. In his words, "Ohio NExT was one of the best things that helped me to grow professionally! I would recommend it to anyone who is new to the Section." Mark has also had experience in industry, having worked for four years with companies in Denver that provided

data management services to a number of government clients. Prior to that, Mark taught mathematics and social science at a private high school in the Denver area.

The Nominating Committee also presents **Philip Blau** (Shawnee State University) as the nominee for member of the Program Committee. Phil received his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts in the area of ring theory. After four years of teaching at Boston University's College of General Studies, Phil is currently in his eighth year at Shawnee State. In the Ohio Section, Phil has served on CONTEAL and CONSACT (including a year as chair), and served as local arrangements chair for the Spring 2007 Section meeting.

The election will take place at the business meeting on Friday evening, April 11, 2008. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor.



Campus Notes (cont. from p. 4)

Sinclair Community College: **Brett Holland** was hired as a coordinator of the Math Lab during the summer. **Najat Baji**, **Lynn Schutte** and **Tom Whitehead** were hired as Annually Contracted Faculty in fall, 2007. **Maryann Barta**, Chair of Xenia High School Math Dept., gave a presentation to the math department on the challenges faced in her school district relative to student success. She also discussed the curriculum taught in Xenia's Algebra I course and compared/contrasted it to Sinclair's Beginning & Intermediate Algebra courses. **Len Ruth** presented the second part of a series of talks at the University of Cincinnati, as part of their Geometric Function Theory Seminar. The title of his presentations was: "Six conditions equivalent to the quasiconformal deformation of a bounded uniform metric measure space with bounded Q-geometry and uniformly perfect boundary, be uniform."

The University of Akron: Three new Assistant Professors joined the Department of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics at The University of Akron in the fall. **Mike Ferrara** works in graph theory and combinatorics and previously held a postdoctoral position at the University of Colorado at Denver. **Alberto Montero** works in partial differential equations and variational methods and previously held postdoctoral positions at the University of Toronto and McMaster University. **Truyen Nguyen** works in partial differential equations, calculus of variations, mass transport, and fluid dynamics. He came from postdoctoral appointments at Georgia Institute of Technology and the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute. The department also welcomed five new College Lecturers: **Naman Al-Niemi**, **Anebra Jones**, **Kim Ramsey-Chin**, **Mike Rossetti**, and **Jan von Spiegel**.

University of Dayton: **Pete Hovey** and **Becky Krakowski** have been granted tenure, effective Fall, 2008.

Spring Meeting Program

Friday, April 11, 2008

Noon – 4:30	Registration	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
1:00 – 4:30	Vendor and Book Exhibits	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
12:00 – 1:20	Student Team Competition	Andrews Hall 203
12:15 – 1:15	Committee Meetings:	
	CONCUR	McDonough 207
	CONSACT	McDonough 206
	CONTEAL	McDonough 208
1:30 – 1:45	Welcome and Announcements	McDonough 131
1:45 – 2:45	Invited Address: “Insights from Archimedes” <i>Bill Higgins, Wittenberg University</i>	McDonough 131
2:45 – 3:15	Break/Refreshments	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
3:15 – 4:15	Invited Address: “Infinity Bottles of Beer on the Wall” <i>Lew Lefton, Georgia Tech</i>	McDonough 131
4:25 – 6:20	Contributed Papers	Rickey Science Center
4:25 – 6:20	Executive Committee Meeting	McDonough 110
6:30 – 8:00	Student Pizza Party and Graduate School Panel Discussion	Thomas Hall 124
6:20 – 6:45	Social Time	Andrews Hall 203
6:45 – 8:00	Banquet	Andrews Hall 203
8:10 – 9:00	After-Dinner Talk: “The Covering Congruences of Paul Erdos” <i>Carl Pomerance, Dartmouth College</i>	McDonough 131
9:00	Business Meeting and Presentation of Teaching Award	McDonough 131

Saturday, April 12, 2008

8:00 – 10:15	Registration	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
8:00 – 10:15	Vendor and Book Exhibits	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
8:00 – 8:50	Coffee and Pastries	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
8:05 – 8:40	Liaisons’ and Department Chairs’ Meeting	McDonough 214
8:05 – 8:40	Executive Committee Meeting	McDonough 110
8:50 – 8:55	Announcements	McDonough 131
8:55 – 9:55	Invited Address: “Euler’s Function” <i>Carl Pomerance, Dartmouth College</i>	McDonough 131
9:55	Announcement of Student Competition Winners	McDonough 131
9:55 – 10:15	Break/Refreshments	McDonough 3 rd Floor Gallery
10:25 – 11:25	Roundtable Discussion: “Assisting Education Departments with Accreditation”	Rickey Science Center 285
10:25 – 11:40	Contributed Papers	Rickey Science Center
11:50 – 12:50	Invited Address: “Distributed Computing and the Internet” <i>Lew Lefton, Georgia Tech</i>	McDonough 131
12:50	Closing Remarks	McDonough 131

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

Lew Lefton
“Infinity Bottles of Beer on the Wall—or What’s so Funny about Mathematics”

In addition to being a mathematician, Dr. Lefton has worked as a standup and improv comedian. Of course, this means that he’s funny, and he can prove it! This talk will be a stand up comedy set consisting of original material based on Lefton’s experiences as a graduate student, professional mathematician, and college professor. **WARNING:** This presentation will include certain portions of Lefton’s material that are only suitable for mathematically mature audiences! Come and steal his jokes for use in your classrooms!

“Distributed Computing and the Internet: Why Your Computer Should be Spending Most of its Time Doing Mathematics”

In this talk we will take a look at different ways that mathematics is done using computers. We will discuss some large scale distributed computing projects like GIMPS (Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search), as well as other mathematical computing efforts, including some pure and applied mathematical computations on which the speaker is currently working.

Lew Lefton received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Illinois in 1987. After visiting for two years at the University of California at Riverside, he took a position in the mathematics department at the University of New Orleans. In 1999, he moved to Georgia Tech where he is currently the Information Technology Director for the School of Mathematics and the College of Sciences. Lefton’s research interests are in scientific computing and applied mathematics. He is the author of many articles, and the textbook “Introduction to Parallel and Vector Scientific Computing.”

In addition to his professional life in academia, Lefton enjoys performing stand up and improv comedy. He has performed around the country at dozens of clubs (the Improv, the Laugh Factory, Comedy Gumbo, Zanies, ...), colleges (University of Illinois, University of California Riverside, Georgia Tech, Loyola University, Harvey Mudd College, ...) and concerts (Three Dog Night, Bobcat Goldthwait, ...). His business card reads:

Lew Lefton
 Mathematician/Stand Up Comic
 “He’s funny and he can prove it.”



Bill Higgins
“Insights from Archimedes”

Archimedes of Syracuse is sometimes referred to as the most important scientist who ever lived. Both the mathematics of infinity and the application of mathematical models to the physical world are principles developed by Archimedes that went on to influence the course of modern science. We will look at some of Archimedes’ results and discuss how his works have been passed down to us from his time – more than 2200 years ago. Scholars are, in fact, currently gaining new insight into Archimedes’ work by using modern imaging technology to analyze a recently rediscovered manuscript, called the



Carl Pomerance
“The Covering Congruences of Paul Erdos”

Can the integers be expressed as the union of finitely many residue classes to different large moduli? This deceptively simple question was raised by Paul Erdos over 50 years ago and it is still unsolved. Erdos wrote of this as his “favorite problem,” which is saying something given the enormous number of great problems due to him. In this talk I will discuss the origins of the problem and its connections to some other famous unsolved problems, as well as some very recent numerical and theoretical progress.

“Euler’s Function”

A familiar concept in elementary number theory and algebra, Euler’s function at n is the number of integers from 1 to n that are relatively prime to n . It is not only crucial to the RSA cryptosystem, Euler’s function is a surprisingly rich source of interesting problems, some of them still unsolved. For example, is it always at least $2/3$ as a mapping from the natural numbers to themselves? What is the computational complexity of computing Euler’s function? Is there an asymptotic formula for the distribution of its range within the natural numbers? These, and many more problems and results will be discussed.

Carl Pomerance received his B.A. from Brown University in 1966 and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1972 under the direction of John

Tate. Currently he is a mathematics professor at Dartmouth College, after previous positions at the University of Georgia and Bell Labs. A number

theorist, Pomerance specializes in analytic, combinatorial, and computational number theory, with applications in the field of cryptology. He considers the late Paul Erdos as his greatest influence.



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Bill Higgins (continued from p.7)

Archimedes Codex palimpsest, which contains the faint image of a tenth century copy of Archimedes' work behind the script of a thirteenth-century monk's prayer book.

Bill Higgins is a 1976 graduate of Kenyon College with majors in math and physics, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1982 with a Ph.D. in mathematics under the direction of Warren Wong. Bill joined the Wittenberg University faculty in 1984.

Bill served as the Ohio Junior High School (AMC 8) American Mathematics Competition Director from 1986-2004 and served as a member of the editorial board of the MAA Classroom Resource Materials book series from 2004 to 2006. He is currently a member of the editorial board of the new MAA Textbook Series.

Bill has served the Ohio Section as a member of CONSACT, as co-editor of the section newsletter, and as a member and then chair of the program committee. He is now near the end of his term as President of the Ohio Section. Bill was awarded the Ohio Section MAA outstanding teaching award in 2007.

While on leave from Wittenberg, Bill has taught at the Naval Postgraduate School and at the United States Military Academy at West Point. He and his wife, Aparna Higgins who teaches mathematics at the University of Dayton, are currently planning to spend sabbatical leaves at California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) during the 2008-09 school year. CSUCI is not actually located on the Channel Islands, but is on the mainland between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara about 5 miles from the Pacific Ocean.

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. Student presentations may be expository talks, a recounting of a mathematical internship or a co-op experience, or the result of a research project.

Contributors should send a title and brief abstract by **March 28, 2008**. Although online submission with your meeting registration 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 either a whiteboard or a chalkboard, 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. All speakers who are planning to use technology

should contact Mark Miller, millerr@marietta.edu.



*Rickey Science Center
Site of the Contributed Paper Sessions*

Publishers' Exhibits

Several commercial publishers will exhibit their wares on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, in the 3rd Floor Gallery of the McDonough Center for Leadership and Business, near the registration area. There will also be MAA books on display, and you will have 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 been thinking about?

Banquet

The Friday, April 11, banquet will be held in the Great Room of Andrews Hall (room 203). The banquet will feature a buffet including carved roast beef, seared salmon, pasta with tomato and basil cream alfredo sauce, roasted rosemary redskin potatoes, and fresh spring vegetables, as well as salad and dessert. The cost is \$20 per person. Please make your banquet reservation online by April 4, when you register for the meeting. A limited number of banquet tickets may be available at the meeting, but last-minute seats cannot be guaranteed. A social time, which will include a cash bar, will precede the banquet, also in Andrews Hall.

Note: Students attending the meeting are invited to attend the **Student Pizza Party and Graduate School Panel Discussion** (at no charge), which will be held in Room 124 of Thomas Hall, concurrently with the banquet. At the conclusion of the pizza party and panel discussion, students are invited and encouraged to attend the after-dinner talk and announcement of the teaching award winner. Those events will take place in the McDonough Center, room 131.



*Andrews Hall
Location of the Banquet*

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. Those 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 either a whiteboard or a chalkboard, overhead projector, computer projector, laptop connections and internet access. Presenters can either plug in their laptops to the overhead projection sys-

tem or plug in a flash drive to the resident computer. All speakers who are planning to use technology should contact Mark Miller, millerr@marietta.edu, in order to assure compatibility of their technology with the systems at Marietta.

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 webpage, <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: 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. If submitting an abstract by mail or e-mail, please include your name, institution, e-mail address, student status (junior, senior, etc.), name of faculty mentor for the talk, your intended audience (upper level undergraduate, lower level undergraduate, etc.), the title of the talk, and a brief description of the presentation.

Abstracts must be received by **March 28, 2008**. 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 Graduate School Panel Discussion

A student pizza party will be held Friday evening at 6:30 in room 124 of Thomas Hall. There is no charge, but meeting registration is necessary. See the Section webpage (www.maa.org/Ohio) for online registration. Concurrent with the pizza party there will be a panel discussion on graduate school. Although panelists are still being assembled, we expect to have about five graduate students, each from different graduate schools. The panel members will address all of your questions about graduate school including how to apply, what type of courses they started with, how prepared they were for graduate school, departmental duties, teaching assignments, and so on. This a great opportunity to find out just what is involved and expected in graduate study.

Student Team Competition

Undergraduate students from institutions of the Ohio Section are invited to participate in the fifth annual Student Team Competition. The competition will take place on **Friday from Noon to 1:20**, in Andrews Hall, room 203. Cash prizes will be awarded on Saturday to the top three teams. Rules and registration information, as well as copies of the problems from prior years, can be found on the Ohio Section web site, www.maa.org/Ohio. (Click on "Student Activities.")



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

October 24-25, 2008
Capital University
Columbus, OH

Directions to Marietta College

Marietta College is located in Marietta, Ohio, near the southern end of Interstate 77.

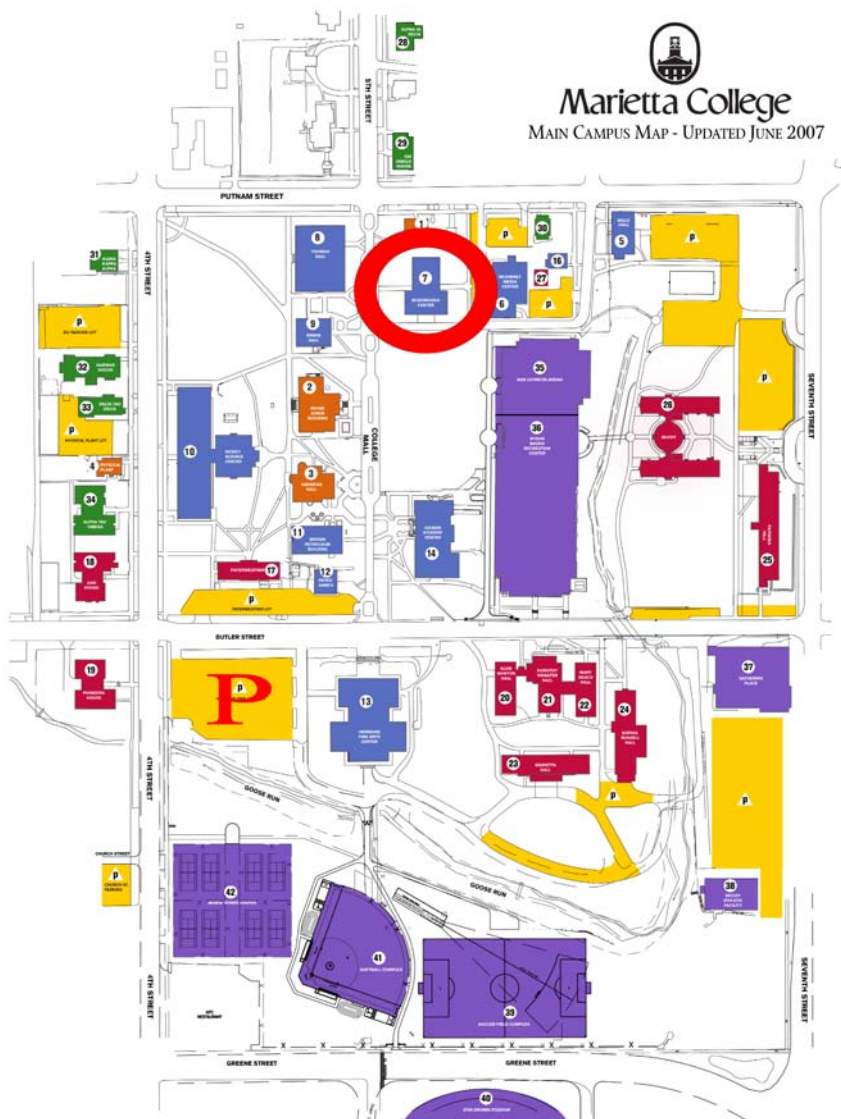
From the North or South: Take I-77 to Ohio Exit 1, Marietta, OH. From Exit 1, keep right on ramp onto Rt. 7. Continue through five traffic lights. At the 6th light (Kentucky Fried Chicken on right), turn right onto Fourth Street. Turn right on Butler Street.

From the East: Take I-70 West to I-77 South and follow the directions from the North.

From the West: Take U.S. 50 East to Belpre, OH to Rt. 7. Follow Rt. 7 into Marietta to Fourth Street. Turn right on Fourth Street to Butler Street. Turn left on Butler Street at the blinking traffic light.

Parking is available on the right, next to the Hermann Fine Arts Center (marked with the large “P” on the map). The registration area and the invited addresses are in the McDonough Center, building 7 (circled) on the map.

For complete information on local arrangements, including suggestions on dining and a scalable campus map, visit www.marietta.edu/maa.



Hotels

Best Western Marietta

Group Code: MAA

Group Rates:

\$69.30+tax for room with 2 double beds

\$59.40+tax for room with 1 double bed

Rooms held until 3/11

740-374-7211 or 1-800-528-1234

279 Muskingum Drive, Marietta (located on the Muskingum River Parkway)

Distance to Campus: 2 miles

Hampton Inn

Group Code: MAA

Group Rate: \$88+tax

Rooms held until 3/11

740-373-5353 or 1-800-426-7866

508 Pike Street, Marietta (Exit 1 off I-77)

Distance to Campus: 1.5 miles

Holiday Inn

Group Code: MAA

Group Rate: \$67+tax

Rooms held until 3/24

740-374-9660 or 1-800-HOLIDAY

701 Pike Street, Marietta (Exit 1 off I-77)

Distance to Campus: 2 miles

Comfort Inn

Group Code: MAA

Group Rate: \$67.99+tax

Rooms held until 3/21

740-374-8190 or 1-800-537-6858

700 Pike Street, Marietta (Exit 1 off I-77)

Distance to Campus: 2 miles

Historic Lafayette Hotel

Group Code: MAA

Group Rate: \$58+tax

Rooms held until 3/28

740-373-5522 or 1-800-331-9336

101 Front Street, Marietta

Distance to Campus: 5 blocks

Super 8

Group Code: MAA

Group Rate: \$46.78+tax

740-374-8888 or 1-800-800-8000

46 Acme Street, Marietta

Distance to Campus: 1.5 miles

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
419-289-5262; tdence@ashland.edu

Past-President #2

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

President-Elect

Vickie Van Dresar, Ashland University
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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

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

OTHER OFFICERS

Department Liaisons Coordinator

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937-229-2013; wiebke@udayton.edu

Webmaster

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Newsletter Editor

Carl Spitznagel, John Carroll University
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John Prather, Ohio University Eastern
740-699-2498; prather@ohio.edu

OhioMATYC Liaison to OhioMAA

Jim Anderson, University of Toledo
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

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 Silberberger, 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

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 (April 3-4)
Bowling Green State University
David Meel
meel@bgsu.edu

Fall 2009: Baldwin-Wallace

Spring 2010: Kent State

Fall 2010: Ursuline College

Fall 2011: Kenyon College

About Marietta College

Marietta College traces its roots to the establishment of the Muskingum Academy, which was founded by pioneer settlers in 1797, in Marietta, Ohio. Accordingly, the College has been recognized as one of America's 37 "Revolutionary Colleges." The Academy became the first institute of higher education in the Northwest Territory. In 1835, the State of Ohio created Marietta College by granting a charter to offer college-level degrees. Marietta has always been a private, non-sectarian, co-educational (from 1897), residential college.

But antiquity guarantees nothing, and in its mission statement, the College professes to offer a contemporary liberal arts education, meaning that the College provides academic programs that are based on the best of the past and have a high relevance for today. The traditional liberal arts have always been the core of the College's intellectual life. For ex-



ample, the College's Phi Beta Kappa chapter dates from 1866, making it one of the oldest in the nation. Examples of the College's ability to stay "contemporary" are the establishment some years ago of programs in petroleum engineering and in sports medicine, both of which were the first to receive separate professional accreditation at a private college.

Marietta also has distinguished itself with the Dyson Baudo Recreation Center and Rickey Science Center. Both opened in 2003 and have provided an outlet for those seeking recreational activities or state-of-the-art science labs. The College is also building a new library and planetarium, and both will open in January 2009.

The Marietta College Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is pleased to welcome you to Marietta College for the Spring 2008 Meeting of the Ohio Section.

Calendar

Ohio Section

Ohio Section Short Course: "Study the Masters," June 18-20, 2008, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH. (See page 4 of this newsletter for details.)

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

Spring 2009 Section Meeting, April 3-4, 2009, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

National MAA-AMS

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

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

MathFest, August 5-8, 2015, Washington, DC

Other

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, 2008, Denver, CO

OCTM Conference/NCTM Regional Conference, October 15-17, 2008, Cleveland, OH

Indiana Section, October 18, 2008, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, IN

AMATYC Annual Conference, November 20-23, 2008, Washington, DC