

Bert Waits

1940-2014



Bert Kerr Waits died on July 27, 2014 in Orlando, Florida from complications following five weeks in the hospital to set a broken leg.

Bert was a Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at The Ohio State University. He was the cofounder and director of the *Ohio Early College Mathematics Placement Testing* (EMPT) Program of the Ohio Board of Regents, which became a model for the nation. He authored over 70 publications in internationally recognized professional journals and presented many keynote lectures, workshops, and mini-courses at national meetings of the MAA and NCTM. He was a coauthor of the NCTM's *1989 Curriculum and Evaluation Standards for School Mathematics*. He has also served a three-year term on NCTM's Board of Directors and has been a member of the College Board's AP Calculus Development Committee.

Working with Frank Demana, he played a key role in designing the Texas Instruments family of graphing calculators and promoting the use of handheld technology in mathematics education. They developed a graphing approach to the study of functions, which impacted secondary and college curricula worldwide. The inroads of their approach included the notion of a 'complete graph' capturing the key features of the graph of a function and the power of parametric equations applied to interesting applications, such as the path of baseball hit over a fence for a home run. Demana and Waits capitalized on the concept of the 'Power of Visualizations' long before other mathematics educators saw its value on understanding and memory in mathematics education.

Waits and Demana were co-founders of *T-Cubed*, *Teachers Teaching with Technology*, the annual *International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics* (ICTCM), and the biannual *International Conference on Technology in Mathematics Teaching* (ICTMT). They co-directed many mathematics education projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Bert co-authored numerous middle school, high school, and college textbooks, both precalculus, and calculus textbooks.

Together with Frank Demana, Bert received the distinguished *Glenn Gilbert Award* of the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics and the Ohio Council of Teachers of Mathematics' *Christopherson-Fawcett Award* for 'inspiration and achievement in education in mathematics'.

He was known not only for his substantial contributions, but also for his keen sense of humor. In his presence you not only learned something, but had fun doing it.