

Ohio Section MAA

Fall Meeting
October 27-28, 2006
Muskingum College

Brief Biographies of Invited Speakers

Curtis Bennett, Loyola Marymount University

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

David Singer, Case Western Reserve University

David Singer learned mathematics from his mother, and at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received his Ph.D. in 1970. Since 1975 he has taught mathematics and done research in differential geometry at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the author of one book, *Geometry: Plane and Fancy*, and numerous articles. In recent years he has particularly enjoyed teaching number theory and cryptology to students in mathematics and computer science and working with high school mathematics teachers during the summer. At home he enjoys playing the piano and playing with his three grandchildren.

Bernd Sturmfels, University of California, Berkeley

Bernd Sturmfels is a 2005-2007 Pólya Lecturer. He received doctoral degrees in Mathematics in 1987 from the University of Washington, Seattle, and the Technical University Darmstadt, Germany. After two postdoctoral years at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, Minneapolis, and the Research Institute for Symbolic Computation, Linz, Austria, he taught at Cornell University, before joining UC Berkeley in 1995, where he is Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science. His honors include a National Young Investigator Fellowship, a Sloan Fellowship, and a David and Lucile Packard Fellowship. Sturmfels served as von Neumann Professor at TU Munich in Summer 2002, as the Hewlett-Packard Research Professor at MSRI Berkeley in 2003/04, and he was a Clay Senior Scholar in 2004. A leading experimentalist among mathematicians, Sturmfels has authored or edited 13 books and about 150 research articles, in the areas of combinatorics, algebraic geometry, symbolic computation and their applications. He currently works on algebraic methods in statistics and computational biology.

CONCUR Panelists

Cathy Stoffer, Ashland University

Cathy has worked on revising the mathematics content courses for early childhood and middle grades mathematics concentration licensure candidates at Ashland University. She was instrumental in the revision of the mathematics curriculum for secondary mathematics teacher licensure candidates at Ashland and has written the curriculum for the secondary mathematics methods course. Cathy has served the Ohio Section as the chair of CONTEAL and is currently serving on CONCUR.

Marsha Guntharp, Capital University

At Capital University, teacher education candidates are required to take a course in college geometry and in history of mathematics, two courses not required for the regular mathematics majors. A course specifically designed for the middle-childhood education preservice teachers is one, which Marsha developed with grant money from the Ohio Board of Regents. The course looks into the actual content of middle-childhood mathematics, but explores the mathematics at a deep and rich level.

Richard Little, Baldwin-Wallace College

Dick has worked on several initiatives with the Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Board of Regents over the past 30 years. While Baldwin-Wallace has not adopted much material from the CUPM 2004, they have a very viable program for secondary teachers, both a major in mathematical economics and a double major program in concert with their economics department, and a program for math teachers in grades 4-9. He has served on various facets of the ODE's OMAP program last summer and this summer, and on ODE's Program Models for secondary math curriculum last summer.

Carol Phillips-Bey, Cleveland State University

Carol's curriculum activities involve a collaborative program with two other universities along with education, science, and mathematics faculty to deliver professional development institutes for teachers in grades three through ten. Her other current work focuses on developing a chemistry-algebra set of learning modules as a project with the chemistry department. She is collaborating with both mathematics faculty and College of Education faculty in designing new courses for pre-service teachers. She was involved in creating three new courses for teacher licensure candidates – one at the undergraduate level, which focuses on the application of technology, and two at the graduate level.

Harold Putt, Ohio Northern University

Harold has been actively involved in significant revisions in the mathematics curriculum at ONU in the past decade. A number of curriculum revisions have followed the introduction of a three-track major in 1998. ONU now has minor programs in applied mathematics and applied statistics to complement their long standing minor in mathematics. This fall they introduced a fourth track to their major offerings. This "modified" mathematics major requires fewer courses than any other tracks. Harold established "Communication Teams" designed to foster communication between the mathematics department and various partner disciplines after becoming department chair.