

Allegheny Mountain Section of the Mathematical Association of America

Allegheny Mountain Newsletter

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Section Meeting!

Inside this issue:

Leaders' greetings	2
Meeting Schedule	3
Invited Speakers	4-5
Candidates for Office	6-7
Section NExT	8
Calls for Nominations	9
Meeting Info and Forms	10-12

April 11-12, 2008, are the dates for our annual spring section meeting, but this one promises to be one of a kind. In honor of our seventy-fifth anniversary as a Section, we'll be going back to the University of Pittsburgh, the place where it all began.

The 2008 meeting promises a number of excellent invited speakers, a contributed paper session for faculty and student speakers, a pizza party on Friday night, and much more. Our featured speakers are an especially apt group for this historic (and historical) meeting: MAA Polya Lecturer **Art Benjamin** of Harvey Mudd College, MAA President-Elect **David Bressoud** of Macalester College, and mathematics historian **David Zitarelli** of Temple University.

Meetings like this only come around once every 75 years – don't miss your chance!



The University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning

Registrants for the meeting will receive a free, commemorative T-shirt designed specifically for this 75th anniversary meeting (while supplies last).

From the Chair: John Thompson, University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown



John Thompson of Pitt-Johnstown, Section Chair

Greetings from Johnstown. As the semester plows along, I hope you have been able to make plans to attend the Annual Spring Meeting at the University of Pittsburgh. It promises to be a memorable and exciting time. With a line-up of nationally recognizable speakers to complement the talks by the faculty and students from within the Allegheny Mountain Section, this is a program you won't want to miss. You can read more about the details of the program and how to register

for the meeting or give a talk elsewhere in the newsletter or online.

While at the meeting, please take the time to thank the on-site coordinator Beverly Michaels for all of the work that she has put into preparing the meeting. She deserves much praise for the efforts required to pull together the details of the meeting are ... non-trivial, to say the least.

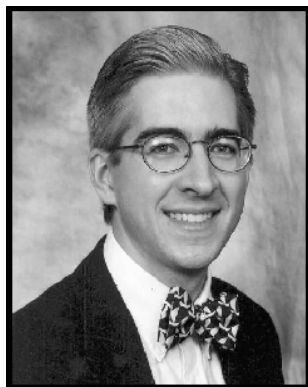
Also, take a moment to thank

John Bukowski for his service as Governor of the section over the past several years. He has done a tremendous job representing our section.

Finally, I want to encourage all of you to participate in the governance of the section by attending the Saturday morning business meeting. New officers will be elected at that time.

I hope to see you in Pittsburgh!

From the Governor: John Bukowski, Juniata College



John Bukowski of Juniata College, Section Governor

Greetings from snowy and icy central Pennsylvania! I hope that all of you are having a good semester. Although it doesn't seem like it, spring will be here before we know it – and with it, the 75th Anniversary Meeting of the Allegheny Mountain Section on April 11 and 12 in Pittsburgh!

I recently attended my sixth and final Board of Governors meeting at the Joint Meetings in San Diego, where it was good to see a number of you. Although we had a few days of rain at the beginning of the meeting, the sun came out by the end. Attendance at the Joint Meetings was 5635, including 521 undergraduates, a new record! As usual, we learned and discussed many things at the Board meeting. The fi-

nances of the MAA are still in good shape, with a current operating budget of \$10.5 million. We had an interesting conversation about “green” investing, which the MAA is considering for part of its investments. We voted on a number of recommendations from the Strategic Planning Working Group on Governance, mainly dealing with the structure of MAA committees and councils. One part of the meeting that will directly affect all MAA members was our vote to keep 2009 dues at the same level as 2008 dues.

After the Board meeting, I attended many interesting talks in what was another great Joint Meetings. Some of the highlights were the invited addresses by Terry Tao and Carl Pomerance, as well as An-

nalisa Crannell's Haimo Award talk. See the February issue of *MAA FOCUS* for the text of this fun and inspiring talk.

This is my final Governor's Report for the newsletter, as my three-year term is coming to an end. It was both a great honor and a great pleasure to serve the Allegheny Mountain Section in this way. I have enjoyed getting to know the other governors and officers of the MAA – there are so many great people in this organization. I look forward to my continued involvement in the MAA at both the section and national levels. I hope to see all of you at the University of Pittsburgh on April 11 and 12!

Tentative Schedule for Spring 2008 Section Meeting

Friday April 11

11:30-12:30	Section officers meeting
1:00-3:30	Section NExT workshop
2:00-5:00	Registration (Benedum Auditorium)
2:00-5:30	Book exhibits (Benedum Hall)
3:55-4:00	Welcome from University of Pittsburgh (Benedum Auditorium)
4:00-5:00	Art Benjamin talk (Benedum Auditorium)
5:15-6:30	Hors D'Oeuvres & Dessert Reception (Scaife Hall 11th Floor)
6:30-7:15	Awards/Art Benjamin Magic show (Scaife Auditorium 6)
7:00-8:15	Book Exhibits
7:30-9:30	Student talks (Benedum Hall)
9:30-???	Pizza Party (705 Thackeray Hall)

Saturday, April 12

7:30-8:45	Breakfast (705 Thackeray Hall)
8:00-8:45	Business Meeting (705 Thackeray Hall)
8:00-9:00	Registration (Benedum Auditorium)
9:00-12:00	Book Exhibits (Benedum Hall)
9:00-10:00	David Zitarelli talk (Benedum Auditorium)
10:15-11:25	Faculty Talks (Benedum Hall)
11:45-12:45	David Bressoud talk (Benedum Auditorium)
12:45	Closing remarks (Benedum Auditorium)

Be sure to check the Section webpage at <http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn> for changes to information as they occur.

Art Benjamin

Arthur Benjamin earned his B.S. in Applied Mathematics from Carnegie Mellon and his PhD in Mathematical Sciences from Johns Hopkins. Since 1989, he has taught at Harvey Mudd College, where he is Professor of Mathematics and past Chair. In 2000, he received the Haimo Award for Distinguished Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America. Currently, he serves as the MAA's Polya Lecturer from 2006 to 2008.

His research interests include combinatorics and number theory, with a special fond-

ness for Fibonacci numbers. Many of these ideas appear in his book (co-authored with Jennifer Quinn), "Proofs That Really Count: The Art of Combinatorial Proof", published by MAA. In 2006, that book received the Beckenbach Book Prize from the MAA. Professors Benjamin and Quinn are the editors of Math Horizons magazine, published by MAA.

Art is also a magician who performs his mixture of math and magic for audiences all over the world, including at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. He has demonstrated

and explained his calculating talents in his book "Secrets of Mental Math" and on numerous television and radio programs, including The Today Show, CNN, and National Public Radio. He has been featured in Scientific American, Omni, Discover, People, Esquire, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and Reader's Digest. In 2005, Reader's Digest called him "America's Best Math Whiz."



David Bressoud

David Bressoud is DeWitt Wallace Professor of Mathematics at Macalester College and president-elect of the Mathematical Association of America. He served in the Peace Corps, teaching math and science at the Clare Hall School in Antigua, West Indies, before studying with Emil Grosswald at Temple University and then teaching at Penn State for 17 years, eight of them as full professor. He chaired the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Macalester from 1995 until 2001. He has held visiting positions at the Institute for Advanced Study, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Minnesota, Université Louis Pasteur (Strasbourg, France),

and the State College Area High School.

David has received the MAA Distinguished Teaching Award (Allegheny Mountain Section), the MAA Beckenbach Book Award for *Proofs and Confirmations*, and has been a Pólya Lecturer for the MAA. He is a recipient of Macalester's Jefferson Award. He has published over fifty research articles in number theory, combinatorics, and special functions. His other books include *Factorization and Primality Testing*, *Second Year Calculus from Celestial Mechanics to Special Relativity*, *A Radical Approach to Real Analysis* (now in 2nd edition), and, with Stan Wagon, *A Course in Computational Number Theory*. His latest book, *A Radical Approach to Lebesgue's Theory of Integration*, is due out by the end of 2007.

David chairs the MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics as well as the MAA special interest group, Teaching Advanced High School Mathematics. He has chaired the AP Calculus Development Committee and has served as Director of the FIPSE-sponsored program Quantitative Methods for Public Policy. He has been involved in the activities and programs of both the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society.

A native of Pennsylvania, David lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota, with his wife, Jan, and cat, Herodotus.



David Zitarelli

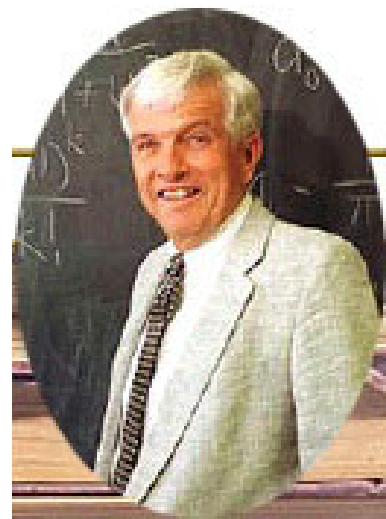
David Zitarelli's three-part career has been spent at Temple University, where he has been recognized for good teaching with several awards, including the prestigious Great Teacher Award in 2005. The following paragraph is taken from David's interesting autobiography at his website <http://math.temple.edu/~zit/>; this appears at the end of his 2004 *Monthly* article on the Moore Method.

"So far, the twenty-first century has been very good to David E. Zitarelli. In addition to publishing a paper on towering figures in American mathematics and a book on the history of the EPADEL Section of MAA, a video of his lecture on the genesis of the Moore Method was pro-

duced and distributed. In 2001 he won the Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching and was chosen Professor of the Year by students in Temple's Honors Program. The following year he was a Buckingham Scholar-in-Residence at Miami University in Ohio. In 2003 he was elected the first chair of HOMSIGMAA, the MAA special interest group on the history of mathematics. He has also organized AMS-MAA special sessions on the history of mathematics every year in the millennium, whether 2000 is included or not."

Since that time, David has continued the charmed life (his words) of an active mathematician with papers in the *CMJ*, *Mathematics Magazine*, *Historia Mathematica*,

and *Convergence*, and his paper "Who was Miss Mullikin?" is scheduled to appear this year in the *Monthly*. David has also written book reviews and articles for various books, including the MAA Notes Series *Hands-on History: A Resource for Teaching Mathematics* and has served as abstracts editor of *Historia Mathematica*. David's invited lectures include a talk on Mullikin's topology in Lhasa, Tibet, in summer 2007, and in January of that year, he was an invited speaker at a Special Session on the History of Mathematics at the joint AMS-MAA meeting in New Orleans. David's list of publications include the dozen books he has coauthored as well as his books on groups and semigroups.



A native Philadelphian, David lives in the City of Brotherly Love with his wife, Anita. He completed both the bachelor and master's degrees at Temple and the Ph.D. in algebra at Penn State.

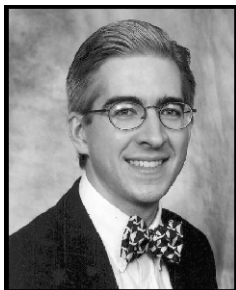
Photos Wanted!

If you have photos of Section activities or members that can be used in the newsletter, please send them to the editor at lyn.miller@sru.edu .

Report from the Nominating Committee

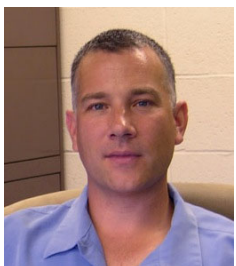
At the business meeting during the section meeting we will elect three officers: chair-elect, secretary, and second vice chair. The nominating committee has put forth the following names and we remind all section members that nominations can be made from the floor at the business meeting as well. The nominating committee consisted of Yu-Ju Kuo from IUP, Tami Lakins from Allegheny College, and Kim Roth from Juniata College.

Chair-Elect



John Bukowski

John Bukowski is Associate Professor and Chair of Mathematics at Juniata College, where he has been since 1997. He is currently in the final months of his three-year term as Governor of the Allegheny Mountain Section. He has previously served the Section as Second Vice Chair and First Vice Chair, and he was one of the local organizers of the 2006 Section Meeting at Juniata. John was a 1998-99 Fellow of Project NExT (silver dot!), and he is now Co-Coordinator of our Section NExT program. At the national level, he serves on the MAA Subcommittee on Early Career Mathematicians, and he is a former Secretary/Treasurer of SIGMAA QL. John recently had the cover article in the MAA's *College Mathematics Journal*.



John Lattanzio

John Lattanzio is an associate professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) and has been a member of the MAA since 1996. Over the past decade, he has participated in several of the fall Section NExT workshops and spring Section Meetings. During the 2003-2004 academic year, he took a more active role in the section, serving as Second Vice-Chair and then as First Vice-Chair in the following year. John writes: "I would very much like once again to play a more active role by serving as section Chair and I feel that I have gained sufficient experience to serve the section in this capacity. I hope to join my colleagues from IUP, present and past, which have served as Chair as well as my colleagues from around the section and would greatly appreciate your support in this endeavor."



James Sellers

James Sellers earned a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1987 and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University in 1992 under the direction of David Bresoud. After receiving his Ph.D., James served as a faculty member in mathematics for nine years at Cedarville University in Ohio. In 2001, he returned to his alma mater as the Director of Undergraduate Mathematics at Penn State. James has been honored with his department's Mary Lister McCammon Award for Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching in 2005 and the Teresa Cohen Mathematics Service Award in 2007. In 2006, James received the MAA Allegheny Mountain Section Award for Distinguished Teaching. He is currently the Director of the Graduate Teaching Assistant Training Program for incoming mathematics graduate students at Penn State and he chairs the department's Graduate Teaching Assistant Oversight Committee. James has started a Center for Undergraduate Research in Mathematics at Penn State and serves as its current Director. James has also served in various ways in the MAA at both the sectional and national levels. He has been the Allegheny Mountain Section's "webmaster" since 2002 and is a member of the MAA's Committee on Web Policy and Procedures and Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM). He has also been privileged to speak at numerous sectional and national Project NExT meetings. In his spare time, James truly enjoys spending time with his wife Mary and their five children.

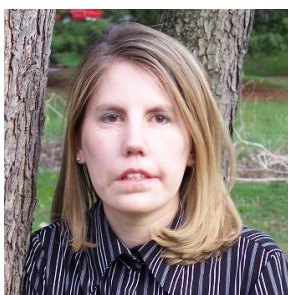
Report from the Nominating Committee (continued)

Secretary

Bob Fliess

Bob Fliess received his B.S. in Mathematics in 1975 and a M.Ed. in Secondary Education Math in 1979 (with additional graduate work in mathematics from 1985 to 1988) from the University of Pittsburgh. After beginning as an Instructor of Mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh and teaching high school mathematics in Pittsburgh, he moved to West Liberty State College, where he has been for 20 years. His hobbies include tennis, bridge (Life Master), and poker. He has served as the Secretary of the Allegheny Mountain Section since 2006. (No photo available.)

Second Vice Chair



Kimberly Burch

Kimberly Burch received her Ph.D. in graph theory in 2002 from the University of Pittsburgh. Her research interests include using chemical graph theory to predict physical properties of chemical compounds and determining which graphs satisfy the property of being matching covered. She has been active in the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT since 2002. She also enjoys directing student research presentations whenever possible.



Geoff Dietz

Geoffrey Dietz is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Gannon University in Erie, PA. He earned a B.S. in mathematics from the University of Dayton in 2000. Geoff completed a PhD in 2005 at the University of Michigan while studying commutative algebra with Mel Hochster. After spending a postdoctoral year at the University of Oklahoma, he joined the faculty at Gannon University in 2006. Geoff is a 2006-2007 Project NExT fellow (sepia dot) and has recently published papers in the Journal of Algebra and Transactions of the American Mathematical Society. He first joined the MAA as a student in the Ohio Section and is looking forward to being an active member of the Allegheny Mountain Section.

Election of officers will take place during the Business Meeting immediately following breakfast on Saturday morning, April 12.

Section NExT News

John Bukowski, Juniata College

Fellows of Project NExT meet to discuss issues related to the profession, with an emphasis on the teaching and learning of undergraduate mathematics.

Allegheny Mountain Section NExT is our local version of Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching), an MAA program for new or recent Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences. We are fortunate to have one of the more active Section NExT programs in the MAA! Following up on the extremely well-attended Fall Workshop, we are looking forward to another big turnout for the Spring Workshop held in conjunction with the section meeting.

We will meet on the afternoon of Friday, April 11, before the opening talk of the section meeting. The topic this spring will be undergraduate summer programs. We are very lucky to have Tami Lakins (Allegheny College) and Lyn Miller (Slippery Rock University) presenting at this session. Both have been involved in teaching courses at the George Washington summer program. We are also very pleased that Joe Previte (Penn State-Erie) will speak about

REUs. He has been involved with his department's long-standing REU since 2000. As we are still working on finalizing the program for the workshop, we will provide additional details at the Section NExT website, <http://faculty.juniata.edu/bukowski/next>, as they become available.

Questions and suggestions regarding Section NExT should be directed to John Bukowski (bukowski@juniata.edu) or Barbara Fairies (fares@westminster.edu).

Section NExT is a group for junior faculty in their first four years. See the Allegheny Mountain Section NExT web site at faculty.juniata.edu/bukowski/next/index.htm for all kinds of fantastic information.

Our Section's Students in Action



Westminster's **Anna Sparacino** (left) and REU partner Sara Jensen of Carthage College presenting their work on blood types in San Diego



SRU student **Jared Matis** with MAA's Robert Vallin, ready for Jared's panel on navigating the San Diego Joint Meetings

Section Mentoring Award: Call for Nominations



2007 Mentoring Award winner Mike Berry of West Virginia Wesleyan

For the past few years, the Allegheny Mountain Section of the MAA has awarded the Distinguished Faculty Mentor of Undergraduate Mathematics Students Award. Awardees have made significant contributions to the development of undergraduate students in mathematics as scholars. This includes, but is not limited to, encouraging student participation in MAA activities and advising students who make presentations at the Section meetings. Recent recipients of the award include:

2007: **Mike Berry**, West Virginia Wesleyan College

2006: **Eric Rawdon**, Duquesne University

2005: **Robert Vallin**, Slippery Rock University

2004: **Lyn Miller**, Slippery Rock University

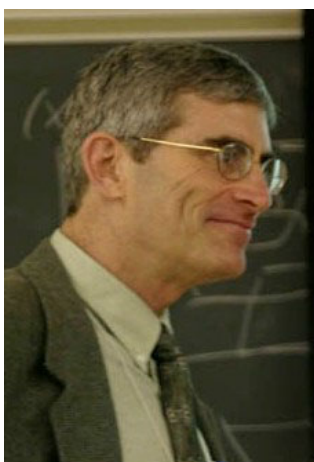
2003: **Francisco Alarcón**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

We are soliciting nominations for this award from now through March 30, 2008. A nominee should have made significant contributions to the development of undergraduate mathematics students as scholars. This includes, but is not limited to, encouraging student

participation in MAA activities and advising students who make presentations at the Section meetings. Please send your nomination with a description of how the nominee meets the criteria to:

Mike Berry
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
West Virginia Wesleyan College
121 Christopher Hall
Buckhannon, WV 26201

Section Service Award: Call for Nominations



2007 Service Award winner Ben Freed of Clarion

The criterion for the Annual Allegheny Mountain Section Service Award is a consistent record of excellence in service to the section over a period of time. The Section announces the winner of this award each year at its annual meeting in the spring. Recent recipients of this award include:

2007: **Ben Freed**, Clarion University

2006: **Ron Harrell**, Allegheny College

2005: **Dave Wells**, Penn State New Kensington

2004: **George Bradley**, Duquesne University

2003: **Charles Cable** (Emeritus), Allegheny College

2003: **Tom Keagy**, Duquesne University

2002: **Melvin R. Woodard**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

In the context of this award, "service" is interpreted in a broad sense to include holding office, coordinating contests, organizing sessions, acting as a panelist, speaking at sessions,

acting as the coordinating host for a meeting, or participating in any other activity that contributes to the well-being of the Section.

George Bradley serves as Chair of the Service Award Committee. **Any member of the Section is welcome to forward nominations to him by March 15, 2008.** His contact information is as follows:

George Bradley
Department of Mathematics
Duquesne University
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

Local Arrangements

All meeting events will take place on the **University of Pittsburgh** campus.

Driving directions and a campus map can be found online at <http://www.tour.pitt.edu/> . Tentative locations are Benedum Hall, Scaife Hall, and Thackeray Hall.

See the meeting schedule on page 3 as well as the always up-to-date online schedule at http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn/annual_meeting_2008/SP08_Tentative_Meeting_Schedule.pdf for exact locations.

Hotel Information

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the following locations:

[Holiday Inn Select at University Center - Oakland](#) (412-682-6200)

Friday Night Only - \$129.96 (that includes tax) + Parking \$17.00.

Note: This hotel is closest to the University

Reservation deadline: **March 21, 2008**

[Wyndham Hotel](#) (412-683-2040)

Friday Night Only - \$129.96 (that includes tax) + Parking \$16.00

Reservation deadline: **March 11, 2008**

[Hampton Inn University Center](#) (412-681-1000)

Friday and Saturday Nights - \$135.66 (that includes tax) + Parking \$12.00

Reservation deadline: **March 11, 2008**

When making reservations, be sure to mention that you are attending the MAA Conference!

Allegheny Mountain Section Mathematical Association of America

Annual Spring Meeting - Talk Information Form

(online at http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn/annual_meeting_2008/talkreg.htm)

Note: All contributed talks are 15 minutes in length.

Mark the appropriate blank: I am ____ a student ____ faculty.

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Title of Talk: _____

Abstract of Talk: (Please **attach** separately if needed.)

Equipment Needs — Please read carefully: *Each room is equipped with chalkboard (or whiteboard) and a projector which displays the output of an attached MS Windows computer. In addition, there is a port where the output from a laptop can be connected to the projector. The computers in each room have PowerPoint software, the Internet Explorer web-browser, USB ports, and CD-ROM drives. Overhead projectors, VCRs, etc., may be available with advance notification, but this is not guaranteed. **If you request additional technology or software, please provide a clear and comprehensive list of your needs; attach separately if needed.***

Student Speakers: You receive a free one-year membership to the MAA. We will have a form for you to complete at the meeting in order to finalize the process of obtaining this membership.

Mail **student** Talk Information Forms to:

Natacha Fontes-Merz
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Westminster College
New Wilmington, PA 16172

Mail **faculty** Talk Information Forms to:

Rick Brazier
Department of Mathematics
Penn State University—Dubois
Dubois, PA 15801

Talk Information Forms must be received by April 4, 2008.

Lyn Miller, Editor
Department of Mathematics
Slippery Rock University
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

We're on the web!

[www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/
alleghenymtn/](http://www.math.psu.edu/sellersj/alleghenymtn/)

Spring Meeting:

**April 11-12, 2008
University of Pittsburgh**

Details inside!

Hotel Deadlines:

March 11 and 21 — See inside!