



Mathematical Association of America  
History of Mathematics Special Interest Group  
**NEWSLETTER**



Volume II, Number 1

June 2007

**Dates to Remember:**

**August 3-5, 2007**  
**MathFest in**  
**San Jose, CA**

**January 6-9, 2008**  
**Joint Mathematics**  
**Meetings in**  
**San Diego, CA**

**March 30, 2008**  
**HOM SIGMAA**  
**Student Paper**  
**Contest deadline**

**HOM SIGMAA to Enjoy Euler, Ethnomathematics**

*Amy Shell-Gellasch, HOM SIGMAA Program Coordinator*

**2007 Joint Winter Meetings, New Orleans.** The HOM SIGMAA was honored to have two guest speakers this year. Ed Sandifer gave an energetic and fun talk on “The Story of the Euler Story.” Robin Wilson entertained us with his talk, “Hardy’s Oxford Years.” In addition to these two wonderful talks, we had two well-attended sessions on Euler, “Euler’s Continuing Influence” and “Euler in the Classroom,” and our lone non-Euler event (though somehow, his name did come up), our panel discussion on “The Practice of Mathematics History.” Thank you to all our organizers and presenters!

HOM SIGMAA members also will enjoy the Euler Society’s Euler Tercentenary Conference, to be held at MathFest. It will feature the Euler Lecture by William Dunham, along with invited and contributed paper sessions and original source reading sessions. For more information about all MathFest activities, including a lecture on Lagrange by Judith Grabiner, see the April 2007 *FOCUS*.

**2008 Joint Winter Meetings, San Diego.** Mark the 2008 JMM, to be held Jan. 6-9 in San Diego, on your calendars! 2008 will be the year of “Mathematics of Indigenous Peoples” (the study formerly known as ethnomathematics). We will have several sessions and speakers on this topic, including a Contributed Paper Session on “Ethnomathematics and Its Uses in Teaching” and a Panel Discussion on “The Political Dimension of Ethnomathematics” with panelists Ubiratan D’Ambrosio, Ana Lúcia Braz Dias, and Arthur B. Powell. The HOM SIGMAA annual speaker (following our reception) will be Ubiratan D’Ambrosio.

**Inside this issue:**

Conference Calendar	2-3
New Orleans 2007	4-5
<i>Convergence</i> and Other Creative Opportunities	6-7
HOM SIGMAA Prizes	8

**MathFest 2007, San Jose, California.** HOM SIGMAA will sponsor a Contributed Paper Session on “Teaching a history of mathematics course” organized by Joel Haack and Amy Shell-Gellasch. This session presents descriptions of history of mathematics courses for those faced with teaching such a course. After MathFest, Joel and Amy will start work on an MAA book describing various types of history of mathematics courses. If you are interested in contributing an article on your course to this source book, please contact Amy at shellgae@plu.edu or Joel at Joel.Haack@uni.edu

*Please see HOM SIGMAA to Enjoy, page 3.*

**Greetings from the HOM SIGMAA Chair**

*Dan Curtin, Northern Kentucky University*

It has been a very good year for HOM SIGMAA, and I continue to enjoy my time as Chair. It helps that I have such an outstanding team of officers. Amy Shell-Gellasch has done an exceptional job as Program Chair. Our Secretary and Treasurer Janet Beery’s work includes the very newsletter you are reading and dozens of other tasks handled adroitly. Andrew Perry faithfully maintains our electronic resources.

Our gatherings in New Orleans were a great success. Robin Wilson’s talk helped draw a big crowd for our annual meeting. Ed Sandifer and Rob Bradley, among others, guaranteed no one would forget Euler’s 300<sup>th</sup> birthday. More details of the meeting are in Amy’s report above and in the photo spread on pages 4 and 5. I can only say that I was delighted by the variety and quality of the history talks.

MathFest in Knoxville offered plenty of nice HOM material. Bill Dunham and Ed Sandifer kept Euler to the forefront,

while David Bressoud provided perspective on teaching using history. John Dawson was sponsored by our SIGMAA as a panelist on Godel and the foundations of mathematics. We will have some joint sessions with the Philosophy SIGMAA at the 2009 JMM.

This Fall we will elect a Chair and an Electronic Resources Coordinator. Past Chair David Zitarelli will head the Nominating Committee. Suggestions should be directed to him.

Of course our members are the heart of the organization. Their participation in the ever-growing activities in the History of Mathematics has made us one of the most visible groups at the national meetings. In fact, among SIGMAAs our membership of around 700 is second only to the Math Education group by a dozen or so, and more than half again the size of the third place group. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to enroll so they can enjoy the benefits of HOM SIGMAA and so we can be number one!



## Meeting and Conference Calendar

### ARITHMOS Reading Group

May 19-20, 2007, Danbury, Connecticut

Readings in the History of Mathematics from Original Sources (ARITHMOS) will meet at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20, 2007, to discuss Heath's commentary on Euclid's *Elements*. The meeting begins Saturday, May 19, at 2 p.m. and ends Sunday, May 20, at 12:30 p.m. ARITHMOS meets three to five times per year, with the next meeting most likely to be held in early autumn. Visit [www.arithmos.org](http://www.arithmos.org) or contact organizer Ed Sandifer directly at [esandifer@earthlink.net](mailto:esandifer@earthlink.net) for more information.

*At right, Rob Bradley and Larry D'Antonio puzzle over a passage during a recent ARITHMOS meeting.*



### MAA PREP Workshop: Mathematics from Asia's Past

June 10-15, 2007, Washington, D.C.

Victor Katz, Frank Swetz, and Homer White will lead workshop participants in an exploration of the mathematics of China, India, and the world of Islam, and will help them create classroom materials based on it. For more information about this PProfessional Enhancement Program (PREP) workshop to be held at the newly refurbished MAA Carriage House, visit [www.maa.org/prep/2007](http://www.maa.org/prep/2007)

### MAA PREP Workshop: The Genius of Euler

June 18-22, 2007, Washington, D.C.

In celebration of Leonhard Euler's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, William Dunham will lead workshop participants to discover some of the mathematical contributions of Euler (1707-1783) via lectures and via exploration of Euler's *Opera Omnia*. For more information about this PProfessional Enhancement Program (PREP) workshop to be held at the newly refurbished MAA Carriage House, visit [www.maa.org/prep/2007](http://www.maa.org/prep/2007)

### MAA Mathematical Study Tour: Euler

July 1-14, 2007, Basel, St. Petersburg, and Berlin

In celebration of Leonhard Euler's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday, Victor and Phyllis Katz will lead this tour of the three cities where Euler (1707-1783) lived. Although the tour will focus on Euler's life and mathematics, participants also will learn about the mathematics of Weierstrass in Berlin and meet with modern mathematicians in Germany, Switzerland, and Russia. For more information, visit [www.maa.org/euler\\_trip](http://www.maa.org/euler_trip)

### Joint Meeting of Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics (CSHPM) and British Society for History of Mathematics (BSHM)

July 27-29, 2007, Montreal, Quebec

This joint meeting, to be held at Concordia University, will feature the Kenneth O. May lecture, "Five Pearls of Euler", by Ed Sandifer, along with paper sessions dedicated to Leonhard Euler, Charles Dodgson, and John Fauvel. For more information, visit [www.cshpm.org](http://www.cshpm.org)

### MAA MathFest

August 3-5, 2007, San Jose, California

See Shell-Gellasch, page 1, the April 2007 issue of *FOCUS*, and [www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org) for details.

### Euler Tercentenary Conference

August 3-5, 2007, San Jose, California

The Euler 2007 Conference, the sixth annual meeting of the Euler Society, will be held at the MAA MathFest. It will feature the Euler Lecture, "Euler in Three Acts", by William Dunham, along with paper sessions and original source reading sessions. For more information, see the April 2007 issue of *FOCUS* or [www.eulersociety.org](http://www.eulersociety.org)

### Pohle Colloquium in the History of Mathematics

September 2007 - May 2008, Garden City, New York

The Frederick V. Pohle Colloquium in the History of Mathematics is hosted by the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. Watch [www.pohlecolloquium.org](http://www.pohlecolloquium.org) for announcement of the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 speaker series. The colloquium usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3:45 p.m., and is followed by dinner with the speaker at a local restaurant.

### Philadelphia Area Seminar on the History of Mathematics

September 2007 - May 2008, Villanova, Pennsylvania

This monthly seminar meets at Villanova University, and usually begins at 6 p.m. with a light dinner. Check [www66.homepage.villanova.edu/thomas.bartlow/PASHoM/PASHoM.htm](http://www66.homepage.villanova.edu/thomas.bartlow/PASHoM/PASHoM.htm) for updates to the following schedule.  
 September 20, 2007. Ruth Cowan, "Women engineers"  
 October 18. Edward Hogan, "Biography of Benjamin Peirce"  
 November 15. TBA  
 December 13. Thomas L. Bartlow and David E. Zitarelli, "Who was Miss Mullikin?"  
 January 17, 2008. Alan Gluchoff, "We can shoot further than we can see.": Philip Schwartz and the American use of elementary probability theory in fire control, 1919-1929"

*The Calendar is continued on page 3.*



## Meeting and Conference Calendar . . . *continued from page 2*

### Philadelphia Area Seminar, continued

February 21. Paul Pasles, "Benjamin Franklin's Numbers"  
 March 13. Shelley Costa, "Life and work of Sophie Germain"  
 April 10. Babak Ashrafi, "The Philadelphia Area Center for  
 the History of Science (PACHS)"

### ORESME Reading Group

**October 5-6, 2007**, Highland Heights, Kentucky  
 (near Cincinnati, Ohio)

The Ohio River Early Sources in Mathematical Exposition (ORESME) Reading Group is joining in the Year of Euler Celebration in our 18th and 19th meetings. Our January meeting at Xavier University concentrated on Euler's *Introduction to Algebra*. Now that we have completed our Pre-Calculus requirement, we will turn to the *Introduction to Analysis of the Infinite* in our Oct. 5-6 meeting at Northern Kentucky University. Organizers Daniel J. Curtin (Northern Kentucky University) and Daniel E. Otero (Xavier University) welcome inquiries from anyone sharing our interest within striking distance. Meetings usually are held in September and January. See [www.nku.edu/~curtin/oresme.html](http://www.nku.edu/~curtin/oresme.html) or contact us directly for more information.

### First Joint International Meeting of the AMS and the New Zealand Mathematical Society

**December 12-15, 2007**, Wellington, New Zealand

This meeting will include a Special Session on History and Philosophy of Mathematics organized by Jim Tattersall. Visit [www.ams.org](http://www.ams.org) for details.

### AMS-MAA Joint Mathematics Meetings

**January 6-9, 2008**, San Diego, California

HOM SIGMAA theme: Ethnomathematics  
 See Shell-Gellasch, page 1, for details.

### National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Annual Meeting

**April 9-12, 2008**, Salt Lake City, Utah

See [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org) for details. Look especially for activities of the Americas Section of the International Study Group on Relations between History and Pedagogy of Mathematics (HPM). For information about the HPM Americas Section, visit [www.hpm-americas.org/](http://www.hpm-americas.org/).

### Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics (CSHPM) Annual Meeting

**May or June 2008**, Vancouver, British Columbia

For exact dates and location, keep an eye on [www.cshpm.org](http://www.cshpm.org)

### ICME-11 2008

**July 6-13, 2008**, Monterrey, Mexico

Visit [www.icme11.org.mx/icme11/](http://www.icme11.org.mx/icme11/) for information on the 11<sup>th</sup> quadrennial conference of the International Congress on Mathematics Education.

### Save these dates for future MAA meetings!

Summer 2008	Madison, WI	July 31-Aug. 2
Winter 2009	Washington, DC	January 7-10
* HOM SIGMAA theme: Philosophy and History		
Summer 2009	Portland, OR	August 6-8
Winter 2010	San Francisco, CA	January 6-9
* HOM SIGMAA theme: Great Books of Mathematics		
Summer 2010	Pittsburgh, PA	August 5-7
Winter 2011	New Orleans, LA	January 5-8
Winter 2012	Boston, MA	January 4-7
Winter 2013	San Diego, CA	January 9-12
Winter 2014	Baltimore, MD	January 15-18
Summer 2015	Washington, DC	August 5-8
* MAA Centennial Celebration!		

## HOM SIGMAA to Enjoy . . . *continued from page 1*

**2009 Joint Winter Meetings, Washington, D.C.** 2009 will be the year of the philosophy of mathematics and its history. We will have sessions co-sponsored with the Philosophy of Mathematics SIGMAA.

**2010 Joint Winter Meetings, San Francisco.** This year's theme will be "Great Books of Mathematics." One event will be a short course on this theme run by Glen Van Brummelen and Amy Shell-Gellasch.

**Student Paper Contest.** The judging for our fourth annual student writing contest proved to be very difficult. We chose two co-winners: Rory Plante of Roger Williams University won for his paper "The *Libra Astronómica* and its Mathematics." This work presents his translation of Góngora's 1690 paper and is an important addition to the historical literature. Douglas Smith of Miami University won for his well written paper, "Lucas's Theorem: A Great Theorem."

The purpose of the contest is to increase awareness of and interest in the history of mathematics among undergraduates. For more information, please see the HOM SIGMAA website at [www.maa.org/homsigmaa](http://www.maa.org/homsigmaa) or contact Amy Shell-Gellasch at [shellgae@plu.edu](mailto:shellgae@plu.edu). The contest is open to any undergraduate student. **The deadline for next year is March 30, 2008.**

**Virtual Book Club.** This past spring the HOM SIGMAA Virtual Book Club read the manuscript of Kim Plofker's *Mathematics in India*. This very well written and informative work gives the first concise and complete look at the history of mathematics on the subcontinent. The Book Club will take a break over the summer and then choose a book for the fall. If you are interested in joining the Book Club or have an idea for our next selection, please contact Amy Shell-Gellasch at [shellgae@plu.edu](mailto:shellgae@plu.edu)





## HOM SIGMA Celebrates Euler (and Others) at 2007

Many events and presentations at the 2007 Joint Mathematics Meetings January 5-8 in New Orleans featured mathematics history. While many of these activities celebrated the life and mathematical work of Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth, others focused on the lives and mathematics of the Bernoulli brothers and of G.H. Hardy, on teaching mathematics history, and on getting started in mathematics history research.

*Below: Jan van Maanen, wearing the orange of the Netherlands, delivered an MAA Invited Address on "The Bernoulli brothers in the arena of the early calculus".*



*Above: Lee Stemkoski cuts Euler's 300<sup>th</sup> birthday cake, soon to be devoured at the MAA Book Exhibit Booth. Stemkoski, who founded and directs the Euler Archive ([www.EulerArchive.org](http://www.EulerArchive.org)) with Dominic Klyve, presented "The Euler Archive: Illuminating the Life and Times of Leonhard Euler" during a special MAA program at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, DC, on April 16, 2007. Euler was born on April 15, 1707.*



*Above: Bill Dunham greets MAA Executive Director Tina Straley at the MAA Book Exhibit Booth before signing copies of his new MAA book, *The Genius of Euler: Reflections on His Life and Work*, and of his *Euler: The Master of Us All* (MAA, 1999). *The Genius of Euler* is a collection of outstanding articles on Euler and his work from the past century.*



*Above: Ed Sandifer signs copies of his new MAA book, *The Early Mathematics of Leonhard Euler*, as Bill Dunham watches. Sandifer's book describes the 50 mathematical articles Euler wrote in St. Petersburg before 1741.*



*At left: Jim Tattersall surveys the Book Exhibits. As MAA Associate Secretary, Tattersall organizes all MAA national meetings.*



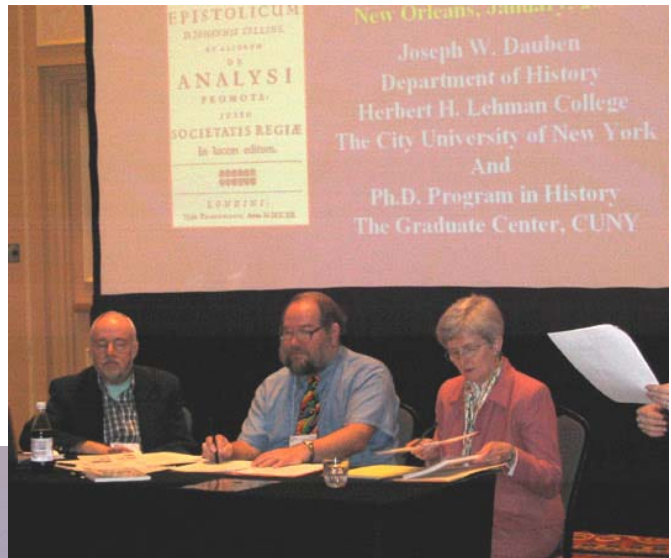


## Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans



At left: The 2007 MAA Beckenbach Book Prize was awarded to Fernando Gouvea and William Berlinghoff for *Math through the Ages: A Gentle History for Teachers and Others* during the Joint Prize Session. The Beckenbach Book Prize is awarded to the author(s) of a distinguished and innovative book published by the MAA.

The MAA also awarded its first-ever Euler Book Prize in January of 2007, to John Derbyshire for *Prime Obsession: Bernhard Riemann and the Greatest Unsolved Problem in Mathematics* (Joseph Henry Press, 2003).



At right: Panelists Joseph Dauben, Fred Rickey, and Karen Parshall prepare to discuss “The practice of mathematics history” during an MAA Panel Discussion on getting started in mathematics history research organized by William Branson and Amy Shell-Gellasch.



Above: Speakers for the MAA Short Course, “Euler: his life and legacy”, assemble afterwards.

Front row, left to right: Ron Calinger, Jeff Suzuki, Stacy Langton, Larry D’Antonio.

Back row, left to right: Ed Sandifer, Janet Barnett, Rob Bradley.

Bill Dunham (pictured on page 4) also spoke. Ed Sandifer and Rob Bradley organized the course, held Jan. 3-4.



At right: Ed Sandifer tells “The story of the Euler story” during an MAA Special Lecture.



## Convergence: Mathematics, History, and Teaching An Invitation and Call for Papers

*Victor Katz, University of District of Columbia*

*Convergence: Where Mathematics, History, and Teaching Interact*, is the MAA's online magazine about the history of mathematics and its use in teaching. Part of the Mathematics Digital Library (MathDL), *Convergence* is aimed at teachers of mathematics, be they secondary teachers, two- or four-year college teachers, or college teachers preparing secondary teachers. Topics include grade 9-14 mathematics: algebra, synthetic and analytic geometry, trigonometry, probability and statistics, elementary functions, calculus, linear algebra, and differential equations. The editors, Victor J. Katz, from the University of the District of Columbia, and Frank Swetz, from Penn State University, Harrisburg, welcome you to visit the *Convergence* website at [convergence.mathdl.org](http://convergence.mathdl.org) to see the magazine (registration is required to access the site).

*Convergence* includes the following features.

- \* Expository articles on the history of topics in the mathematics curriculum. These may contain interactive components and color graphics, to take advantage of the capabilities of the Web. Each article has a discussion group attached, where readers can share suggestions on how to use the material in the classroom.
- \* Translations of original sources, generally accompanied by commentary showing the context of the works. The goal of these translations is to show teachers how ideas were developed in various cultures and how knowledge of this development is useful to teaching the same ideas to today's students.
- \* Reviews of current and past books, articles, and teaching aids on the history of mathematics of use to teachers, as well as reviews of websites providing information on the history of mathematics.
- \* Classroom suggestions. These may be self-contained articles showing how to use history in the teaching of a particular topic or they may be materials closely related to a main article, showing how to use the article in a classroom setting.
- \* Historical problems or "Problems from another time"
- \* "What Happened Today in History?"
- \* Quotation of the day. The reader also can search our database of quotations to find many more quotations.
- \* An up-to-date guide to what is happening around the world in the history of mathematics and its use in teaching. The magazine will report on past meetings and give notice of future meetings.

Because our goal is to bring out new material on a regular basis, we need a continual flow of articles and classroom suggestions. We therefore welcome your ideas for articles as well as your completed manuscripts. In particular, we welcome short classroom suggestions that can be implemented immediately by teachers. Materials should be sent both in hardcopy and electronically, with hardcopy to Victor Katz, *Convergence*, Mathematical Association of America, 1529 18th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036, and electronic files to Victor

Katz at [vkatz@udc.edu](mailto:vkatz@udc.edu). We can take articles in Word or TeX, but please include illustrations (in jpg format), applets, etc. as separate files, and give explicit instructions for both internal and external hyperlinks. If there are many illustrations or applets, it is best to send the electronic version on a CD to the MAA address. If you have an idea for an article, but do not know how to produce applets for it, we suggest that you contact an expert on your own campus for help. If necessary, however, we can provide help in the editorial office, provided you give us very explicit instructions as to what you need.

If you are interested in writing reviews for *Convergence*, please contact Frank Swetz at [guru6@myway.com](mailto:guru6@myway.com). We also welcome interesting quotations as well as information on mathematical dates to add to our database.

### Make a Deposit to the National Curve Bank

*Shirley Gray, California State University, Los Angeles*

The National Curve Bank is an international database for all kinds of curves. Intended as a resource for both students and teachers, it strives to provide features - for example, animation and interaction - that a printed page cannot offer. If you have a favorite curve, you are welcome to make a deposit. Visit the National Curve Bank at [curvebank.calstatela.edu/](http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/)

The National Curve Bank (NCB) announced its annual Renie Award on March 31, Descartes' birthday. The award of \$250 went to Tevian Dray of Oregon State University for his use of JAVA and JAVAView to animate interactive vector fields.

< <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/vectors/vectors.htm> >

Members of HOM SIGMAA will enjoy the historical connections between Dray's work and Hamilton's quaternions, Maxwell's electromagnetic waves and Gibbs' thermodynamics representing contributions from Dublin, Edinburgh and New Haven.

< <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/hamilton/hamilton.htm> >

< <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/maxwell/maxwell.htm> >

< <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/gibbs/gibbs.htm> >

When a student at California State University, Los Angeles, created a Power Point presentation on Bombelli without knowing he was a favorite of the 2005-06 cohort of the MAA Institute in the History of Mathematics and Its Use in Teaching (IHMT), NCB uploaded the student's work in honor of IHMT's 10th Anniversary.

< <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/bombelli/bombelli.htm> >

The National Curve Bank was featured in the prestigious journal *Science* (VOL 314, 27 OCTOBER 2006, 571). Funded by the National Science Foundation since 2001, NCB now is part of the MAA's Mathematics Digital Library (MathDL).





## Help Plan for the MAA Centennial: Join Us in San Jose

*Anthony Piccolino, Chair*

*HOM SIGMAA Working Group on MAA Centennial*

The MAA will celebrate its Centennial in 2015. Although that date may seem to be in the very distant future, plans are already underway to explore ways to celebrate this momentous event. MAA has established an *ad hoc* committee, chaired by Deanna Haunsperger and Steve Kennedy, whose charge is to plan the Centennial. A central focus of the Centennial will be the history of MAA and, as such, MAA has invited HOM SIGMAA to encourage its members to direct their scholarly pursuits and research to the history of MAA. Such scholarly output can be disseminated through the MAA journals, special Centennial publications, presentations at MAA and related meetings, and various other ways.

**WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE AND ASSISTANCE** in formulating ideas and activities to prepare for this event. HOM SIGMAA has organized a Working Group on the Centennial History of MAA to assist in this endeavor. **The Working Group is planning to meet at MathFest 2007 in San Jose, California, August 3-5. If you are planning to attend Math Fest, please contact me at the email address below and I will attempt to arrange a time so that interested MAA members can meet with the Working Group to share their ideas.**

Whether or not you can attend MathFest, please consider how you may want to contribute to this undertaking and send your ideas and suggestions to any member of the Working Group.

### **HOM SIGMAA Working Group on the MAA Centennial:**

Anthony Piccolino (Chair), Montclair State University,  
[piccolino@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:piccolino@mail.montclair.edu)

Nkechi Agwu, Manhattan Community College,  
[Nagwu@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Nagwu@bmcc.cuny.edu)

Florence Fasanelli, AAAS, [ffasanel@aaas.org](mailto:ffasanel@aaas.org)

Joel Haack, University of Northern Iowa, [Joel.Haack@uni.edu](mailto:Joel.Haack@uni.edu)

Paul Schuette, Meredith College, [Schuette@meredith.edu](mailto:Schuette@meredith.edu)

Benjamin V.C. Collins, Univ. of Wisconsin, Platteville,  
[collinbe@uwplatt.edu](mailto:collinbe@uwplatt.edu)

Herb Kasube, Bradley Univ., [hkasube@hilltop.bradley.edu](mailto:hkasube@hilltop.bradley.edu)

Larry D'Antonio, Ramapo College, [ldant@ramapo.edu](mailto:ldant@ramapo.edu)

Hector Rosario, Univ. of Puerto Rico,  
[hector.rosario@math.uprm.edu](mailto:hector.rosario@math.uprm.edu)

### **Join the History of Mathematics SIGMAA!**

The annual HOM SIGMAA membership fee for MAA members is \$10. The MAA membership form has a check-off box for HOM SIGMAA, and we ask you to check this box when you pay your annual MAA membership dues. If you have already joined or renewed for 2007, please contact the MAA at (800)331-1622 and ask to join HOM SIGMAA.

## Help Wanted for Cajori Two Project

*Walter Meyer, Adelphi University*

The Cajori Two project aims to show the evolution of curricular change in college mathematics throughout the 20th century at a sample of American colleges. For example, in the 1960s there were courses named Theory of Equations and Analytical Geometry. While those courses have died out we now have courses in Linear Algebra and Discrete Mathematics. These births and deaths are what we wish to record and study.

The project is named after the mathematics historian (and early president of MAA) Florian Cajori, who published a "still" picture of mathematics curricula in 1890. There is nothing further known on this topic till 1957 when MAA did a survey. And the information available after 1957 does not allow one to see any individual institution evolving. We hope to provide snapshots for 1900, 1910, 1920, . . . , 2000, making a sort of curriculum movie in which about 20 institutions are followed through time. At the end of this, we hope to publish an article summarizing what the data shows.

Our long range goals are to contribute clues to the study of significant historical issues about curriculum. When did the applied orientation of the late 19th century give way to the emphasis on pure mathematics which we see in the mid-twentieth? What were the main ways in which small and large schools differed? Seeing when and where curricula changed may give clues about where curriculum changes come from.

The immediate goal is to produce a set of Excel workbooks for 20 or so institutions in which courses and requirements can be conveniently determined for the years ending in 0. We will need to dig this data out of college catalog pages photocopied for us by university archivists. We expect this work to become available in time for the MAA's Centennial.

There is a lot of work to be done, and we could use an additional volunteer or two. So far, there are three of us: Joe Malkevitch, Jack Winn, and Walter Meyer. If you have a curiosity about historical and curricular issues and are willing to spend time entering data into Excel workbooks and mulling the results for the purpose of writing papers, we would be happy to discuss your participation in this project. Contact Walter Meyer at [meyer@panther.adelphi.edu](mailto:meyer@panther.adelphi.edu) Unfortunately, our funding for this project consists only of a grant from MAA (thank you HOM SIGMAA, we appreciate your support!) to pay for the assistance of university archivists.

Issues still to be decided include the exact format the workbooks should take (a three-dimensional table of data actually would be ideal) and the final selection of schools. We are looking for "interesting" schools that show various kinds of diversity. Once the schools are decided, we will communicate with college archivists to acquire the pages needed from college catalogs. Then it will be time to enter data and, finally, write an interpretive summary.



## HOM SIGMAA to Add Book and Journal Article Prizes

### Changes to HOM SIGMAA Charter

In May of 2007, the HOM SIGMAA Executive Committee proposed the following three changes to the HOM SIGMAA Charter for approval by the HOM SIGMAA membership.

- 1) Introduction of a new officer and member of the Executive Committee, the Prize Coordinator. This officer would be responsible for administering the annual HOM SIGMAA Student Paper Contest, the soon to be inaugurated HOM SIGMAA Book Prize, and the eventually to be inaugurated HOM SIGMAA Journal Article Prize. Implicit in this recommendation is the inception of Book and Journal Article prizes.
- 2) Extension of terms of HOM SIGMAA Executive Committee members (officers) from two years to three years.
- 3) Designation of HOM SIGMAA immediate Past Chair as Chair of three-member Nominating Committee.

The proposed revised charter was distributed electronically to the HOM SIGMAA membership in May of 2007. If you would like an electronic or paper copy, please contact HOM SIGMAA Secretary-Treasurer Janet Beery at [janet\\_beery@redlands.edu](mailto:janet_beery@redlands.edu) or Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Redlands, Redlands, CA 92373. If approved by the HOM SIGMAA membership, the revised charter would be posted at the HOM SIGMAA website.

### HOM SIGMAA Seeks Prize Coordinator

As part of its continuing efforts to encourage and reward excellent writing of mathematics history, the History of Mathematics SIGMAA seeks a Prize Coordinator to administer its ongoing Student Paper Contest in the History of Mathematics, its soon to be inaugurated Mathematics History Book Prize, and its eventually to be inaugurated Mathematics History Journal Article Prize. The office of Prize Coordinator and the two new prizes are subject to approval by the HOM SIGMAA membership. If approved, the Prize Coordinator's first term would begin in January of 2008 (election in October of 2007) or in January of 2009 (election in October of 2008).

### 2007 HOM SIGMAA Executive Committee

**Chair:** Dan Curtin, Northern Kentucky University  
Email: [curtin@nku.edu](mailto:curtin@nku.edu)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Janet Beery, University of Redlands  
Email: [janet\\_beery@redlands.edu](mailto:janet_beery@redlands.edu)

**Program Coordinator:** Amy Shell-Gellasch,  
Pacific Lutheran University  
Email: [shellgae@plu.edu](mailto:shellgae@plu.edu)

**Electronic Resources Coordinator:** Andrew Perry,  
Springfield College  
Email: [perryand@yahoo.com](mailto:perryand@yahoo.com)

**Past Chair:** David Zitarelli, Temple University  
Email: [zit@temple.edu](mailto:zit@temple.edu)

### Next HOM SIGMAA Officer Election

Balloting for the offices of HOM SIGMAA Chair and Electronic Resources Coordinator and, pending approval by the membership, the new office of Prize Coordinator, will be held October 1-31, 2007. If you are interested in running for any of these offices, please contact David Zitarelli, Nominating Committee Chair, at [zit@temple.edu](mailto:zit@temple.edu)

The link for the electronic ballot will be distributed via e-mail through the HOM SIGMAA listserv by October 1, 2007. Paper ballots will be provided by request only.

### Shell-Gellasch Heads SIGMAAs

HOM SIGMAA founding officer Amy Shell-Gellasch took over as Chair of the MAA Committee on SIGMAAs in January of this year, succeeding Stephan Carlson, founding chair of this committee. In addition to overseeing the MAA's eleven SIGMAAs (so far!), Shell-Gellasch continues to serve the HOM SIGMAA as Program Chair. She previously served as our Membership Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer.

### Visit the HOM SIGMAA Website! Join Our Electronic Mailing List!

*Andrew Perry, Electronic Resources Coordinator*

HOM SIGMAA members may be interested in viewing our website, or in subscribing to our electronic mailing list.

The website can be found at [www.maa.org/homsigmaa](http://www.maa.org/homsigmaa), and includes HOM SIGMAA news, announcements of upcoming conferences, links to other history of mathematics pages, and other resources. Since we publish the HOM SIGMAA Newsletter only once per year, please check the HOM SIGMAA website for news throughout the year. Suggested additions to the website (for example, conference information, links or photos) are always welcome at [perryand@yahoo.com](mailto:perryand@yahoo.com).

To subscribe to the HOM SIGMAA list, send an email to [perryand@yahoo.com](mailto:perryand@yahoo.com) with the subject line: subscribe HOMSIGMAA-list ADDRESS, with your own e-mail address in place of the word ADDRESS. See [www.maa.org/SIGMAA/listservinstructions.html](http://www.maa.org/SIGMAA/listservinstructions.html) for further details on this list.

Feel free to contact Andrew Perry at [perryand@yahoo.com](mailto:perryand@yahoo.com) if you have any problems subscribing, or with any other questions or comments on HOM SIGMAA electronic resources.

### No Electronic Access?

If you do not have access to the internet and/or to electronic mail and wish to obtain more information about any of the events or issues discussed in this newsletter, please contact HOM SIGMAA Secretary-Treasurer Janet Beery, Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Redlands, 1200 E. Colton Ave., Redlands, CA 92373, [janet\\_beery@redlands.edu](mailto:janet_beery@redlands.edu), (909)793-2121.