



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



Volume I, Number 1

June 2006

**Dates to Remember:**

**August 10-12, 2006**  
**Mathfest in**  
**Knoxville, TN**

**January 5-8, 2007**  
**Joint Mathematics**  
**Meetings in**  
**New Orleans, LA**

**March 30, 2007**  
**HOMSIGMAA**  
**Student Paper**  
**Contest deadline**

**HOMSIGMAA to Celebrate Birthdays of Gödel and Euler**

*Amy Shell-Gellasch, HOMSIGMAA Program Coordinator*

**MathFest 2006, Knoxville:** HOMSIGMAA is proud to co-sponsor the panel discussion "Gödel's Contributions to the Foundations of Mathematics" to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Kurt Gödel during MathFest 2006 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The session is scheduled for Friday, August 11, 1-2:20 p.m., during the August 10-12 MathFest. John Dawson, Professor Emeritus at Pennsylvania State University, York, and author of *Logical Dilemmas: The Life and Work of Kurt Gödel* (A.K. Peters, 1997), will be HOMSIGMAA's panelist.

In addition to the Euler activities, William Branson and Amy Shell-Gellasch will organize a HOMSIGMAA-sponsored panel discussion on "The Practice of Mathematics History." There also will be an AMS-MAA Joint Special Session on "History of Mathematics" organized by Joseph Dauben, Patti Hunter, Victor Katz, and Karen Parshall. For more information on any of these sessions, please consult your *FOCUS* magazine or *MAA Online* ([www.maa.org](http://www.maa.org)).

**2006 Joint Winter Meetings, San Antonio:** This past January in Texas, HOMSIGMAA hosted its fourth Annual Meeting and Guest Lecture. Kim Plofker of the University of Utrecht spoke on "History of mathematics and original sources in India: a fieldwork report." We also sponsored the Contributed Paper Session "Using history of mathematics in your mathematics courses," organized by Dick Jardine and Amy

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**2007 Joint Winter Meetings, New Orleans:** In celebration of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonhard Euler's birth, HOMSIGMAA is sponsoring three Euler events at the Joint Meetings Jan. 5-8, 2007, in New Orleans. Ed Sandifer will organize a panel discussion on "Euler's Continuing Influence," as well as be the speaker (on Euler, of course!) at our Annual Meeting. We also will sponsor the Contributed Paper Session "Euler in the Classroom," to be organized by Rob Bradley and Amy Shell-Gellasch.

*Please see HOMSIGMAA to Celebrate, page 8.*

**Greetings from the HOMSIGMAA Chair**

*Dan Curtin, Northern Kentucky University*

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to serve HOMSIGMAA as Chair. I am also very grateful to David Zitarelli for his leadership the last three years. Besides my election as Chair, we also elected Andrew Perry as Electronic Resources Coordinator. Again we are all grateful to Rob Bradley for his outstanding work in this role, as well as his other extensive contributions during the founding years of our group. Amy Shell-Gellasch continues her outstanding work as Program Coordinator. Janet Beery is our excellent Secretary-Treasurer, as evidenced by this newsletter.

The two offices of Program Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer will be up for election this October. Amy Shell-Gellasch and Janet Beery have both graciously agreed to run again. David Zitarelli has agreed to Chair the Nominating Committee, and Rob Bradley and Ed Sandifer will serve on the committee. The voting will be electronic, although paper ballots

will be available upon request. It is very important that members vote. My understanding is that a plurality of members should vote if the election is to be valid.

Amy Shell-Gellasch will provide details, but I must say San Antonio was a great occasion for historians, including a very enjoyable HOMSIGMAA evening meeting. Although we are not officially meeting at MathFest, I hope to see many of you in Knoxville. The sessions on Gödel should be of especial interest to our members. The Joint meetings this January are in New Orleans. We will have a full slate of historical events, but there will still be time to enjoy the delights of the renaissance Crescent City.

HOMSIGMAA is going strong, thanks to the support and participation of our members. Please let us know any ideas you have to allow us to better serve you and the mathematical and historical community.



## Meeting and Conference Calendar

### ARITHMOS Reading Group

**June 17-18, 2006**, Danbury, Connecticut

Readings in the History of Mathematics from Original Sources (ARITHMOS) will meet at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18, 2006, to discuss Chapters II-IV of Gauss's *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae*. The meeting begins Saturday, June 17, at 2 p.m. and ends Sunday, June 18, at 12:30 p.m. 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, including copies of the readings to be completed beforehand.

### Euler 2006 Conference

**July 30 - August 2, 2006**, Albany, New York

Please join us for the Euler 2006 Conference, the fifth annual meeting of the Euler Society, at the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, from Sunday, July 30 to Wednesday, August 2, 2006. The theme of the conference will be the life and work of Leonhard Euler during the 1770s and 1780s. We welcome papers on any of Euler's contributions to mathematics, science, technology, philosophy, religion or education. For information about registration, submission of paper proposals (deadline: July 1, 2006), and traveling to Albany, please visit [www.eulersociety.org](http://www.eulersociety.org)

### MAA MathFest

**August 10-12, 2006**, Knoxville, Tennessee

See Shell-Gellasch, page 1, for details.

### ORESME Reading Group

**September 2006**, Cincinnati, Ohio

The Ohio River Early Sources in Mathematical Exposition (ORESME) Reading Group meets twice a year to read original source materials in mathematics. The Reading Group was inspired by the experience organizers Daniel J. Curtin (Northern Kentucky University) and Daniel E. Otero (Xavier University) shared during the summers of 1995-1997 at the Institute for the History of Mathematics and Its Use in Teaching, and was established under the guidance of Fred Rickey, one of the organizers of the Institute and an erstwhile Ohioan. Meetings usually are held in September and January. Keep an eye on [www.nku.edu/~curtin/oresme.html](http://www.nku.edu/~curtin/oresme.html) or <http://www.nku.edu/%7Ecurtin/oresme.html> for an announcement of the next meeting of the ORESME Reading Group.

### Pohle Colloquium in the History of Mathematics

**September 2006 - May 2007**, 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 2006 and Spring 2007 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.

### Middle Atlantic Symposium on the History of Mathematics, October 12-14, 2006

Villanova, Pennsylvania  
See Zitarelli, page 3, for information about the symposium and about other activities of the Philadelphia Area Seminar on the History of Mathematics (PASHoM).

### Midwest History of Mathematics Conference 2006 October 13-14, 2006

Erie, Pennsylvania  
The Midwest History of Mathematics Conference will take place October 13 and 14, 2006, at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College, in Erie, Pennsylvania. William Dunham will be the main speaker on Saturday, October 14, presenting the talk "Euler in Three Acts" in honor of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Leonhard Euler's birth. Dunham is Koehler Professor of Mathematics at Muhlenberg College and an award-winning author. Participants are invited to give talks as well. For information about registration, submitting a talk proposal, and hotels, please visit <http://math.bd.psu.edu/HistoryConference/> or <http://www.personal.psu.edu/axc5/>. Conference organizer Antonella Cupillari reminds us that Erie is located right on Lake Erie, is easily reached via I-90 and/or I-79 or by air, and is beautiful in the fall!

### AMS-MAA Joint Mathematics Meetings

**January 5-8, 2007**, New Orleans, Louisiana

See Shell-Gellasch, page 1, for details.

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

**Annual Meeting, March 21-24, 2007**, Atlanta, Georgia

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 <http://www.hpm-americas.org/>

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

**July 2007**, Montreal, Quebec

CSHPM will hold a Joint Meeting with the British Society for History of Mathematics (BSHM) in July of 2007 in Montreal, Quebec. For exact dates and location, keep an eye on [www.cshpm.org](http://www.cshpm.org)

### Save these dates for future MAA meetings!

Summer 2007	San Jose, CA	August 3-5
Winter 2008	San Diego, CA	January 6-9
Summer 2008	Madison, WI	July 31-Aug. 2
Winter 2009	Washington, DC	January 7-10
Winter 2010	San Francisco, CA	January 6-9
Winter 2011	New Orleans, LA	January 5-8



## Curing the Isolation Blues

*David E. Zitarelli, HOMSIGMAA Past Chair, Temple University*

Few mathematics departments have more than one person seriously interested in the history of mathematics. So what is the historian—amateur or professional—to do? My experience with PASHoM offers two suggestions.

The first is to hold local meetings. For several years, Thomas Bartlow (Villanova) and I discussed the idea of getting together regularly but we did not move on the idea until learning about a threesome in Virginia that met monthly. So when we saw that Paul Wolfson had invited Bill Dunham to speak at West Chester, we contacted Paul about joining us. That was in 2000. The rest is...er...history.

Our initial goal was to meet once a month to discuss ongoing work, but the program soon grew so quickly that this modest aim was subsumed under lectures by historically minded historians in or out of the area. So we settled on the name Philadelphia Area Seminar on the History of Mathematics (PASHoM) and publicized meetings at the sectional MAA meeting.

What is the purpose of our meetings now? Actually we have three: 1) to share our common interest in history of mathematics, 2) to encourage one another in our research efforts, and 3) to offer a forum for reporting on work in progress.

The first speaker in the official series was Jim Stasheff, who spoke at Temple to a sizable campus contingent of mathematicians but a marginal local audience of historians. Next, Rüdiger Thiele, having just spoken at the AMS meeting in New Orleans, brought his message to Villanova. This location proved to be central for most interested parties, so we have held all meetings there ever since.

Here is the *modus operandi* that has worked for us. We meet at 6 p.m. over a light supper supplied at a very reasonable price. (Historians love to eat!) The room is fairly small, centered around a large wooden table that seats about a dozen, with additional chairs nearby if necessary. During this time of breaking bread together we converse about any topic, though the usual focus is on something related to the history of mathematics. When that conversation dies down, usually after 40 to 45 minutes, the talk begins with the speaker standing or sitting at one end of the table in order to use an overhead projector (if desired). We do not adhere to a specific time limit for the talk, though most run about an hour.

So, if you are looking for historical sustenance between HOMSIGMAA meetings, we suggest organizing a local group. Granted, your area might not be as rich in history as Philadelphia, but some of our members drive two hours, a sure indication of the need for historical group therapy. In fact, several speakers have commuted from Washington DC and Connecticut/New York, suggesting the willingness (craziness?) of historians to spread their message.

But what if you are not the organizing type? Then our second

suggestion is to come to Philadelphia. You can find our program listed on the homepage <http://www66.homepage.villanova.edu/thomas.bartlow/PASHoM/PASHoM.htm> and on the Penn Calendar at <https://www.math.upenn.edu/calendar/Calendar.html>

Our program for this fall is sterling, with monthly meetings featuring Alexander Soifer on September 21, 2006, Adrian Rice November 16, and Paul Wolfson December 14. What about October? Well, that is our second suggestion for curing the historian's blues: plan on attending our "Middle Atlantic Symposium on the History of Mathematics," to be held October 12 – 14, 2006, at Villanova. The organizer is the ever-friendly George Rosenstein ([george.Rosenstein@fandm.edu](mailto:george.Rosenstein@fandm.edu)). This year's topic is "Gauss and *Disquisitiones Arithmeticae*." Here is how the Symposium operates. Thursday evening, October 12, will feature the usual PASHoM meeting with a presentation related to Gauss and his work; it is open to the public. The two sessions on Friday and one on Saturday morning are restricted to participants who have read Book 4 of *Disquisitiones*, either in Latin or in translation. (A translation by Arthur A. Clarke is available from amazon.com.) Each of these sessions will feature two presentations on the life and/or work of Gauss, with discussion to follow. (Anyone interested in making such a presentation should inform the organizer.) The Saturday afternoon session will be devoted to a discussion of a topic for next year's Symposium. There will be a registration fee charged to cover the cost of continental breakfast, lunch, and coffee on Friday and Saturday. Anyone interested in participating should inform the organizer in order to be added to the mailing list.

So there you have it. Form a small group of like-minded souls. Or join the Philly phanatics for a session with Gauss. There is no reason to feel blue over historical isolation.

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### Join the History of Mathematics SIGMAA!

To join HOMSIGMAA, you must first be a member of the MAA. For information on joining the MAA, please visit <http://www.maa.org/mbsvcs/individual.html>

The annual HOMSIGMAA membership fee for MAA members is \$10. The MAA membership form has a check-off box for HOMSIGMAA, and we ask you to check this box when you pay your annual MAA membership dues. If you have already joined or renewed for 2006, you can either send \$10 to MAA and tell them you want it applied to membership in HOMSIGMAA, or call the MAA Service Center at (800)331-1622 and give them the information.

If you have any questions regarding membership in HOMSIGMAA, please contact Secretary-Treasurer Janet Beery at [janet\\_beery@redlands.edu](mailto:janet_beery@redlands.edu)

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## MAA Institute in the History of Mathematics and Its

*Janet Beery, University of Redlands*

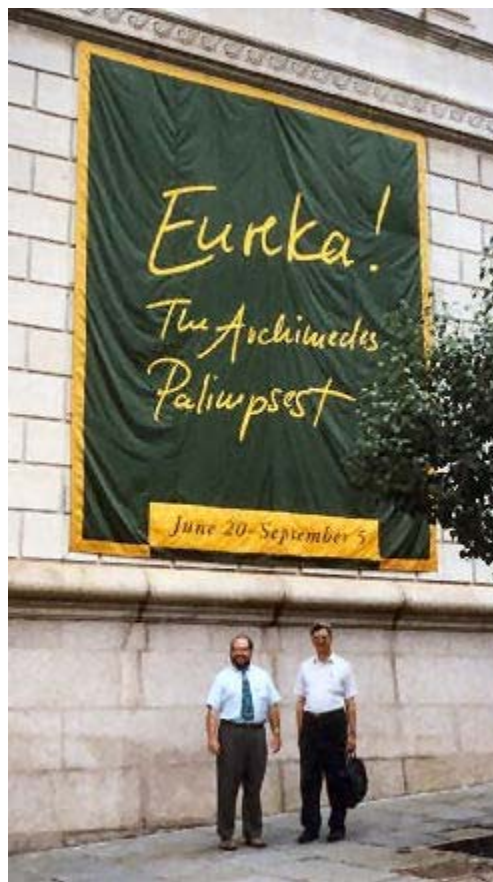
Ten years ago this June the first of three classes graduated from the MAA Institute in the History of Mathematics and Its Use in Teaching (IHMT). By June of 1996, the 1995-96 class already had begun to make its mark on the mathematical community, giving talks and publishing papers on mathematics history and its use in the mathematics classroom.

Held at American University (1995-97) and Catholic University of America (1998-99) in Washington, D.C., IHMT included three classes of about 40 college and university faculty members each, the first during the summers of 1995 and 1996, the second during 1996-97, and the third in 1998-99. Institute directors were Victor Katz, of the University of the District of Columbia; Steven Schot, of American University; and Fred Rickey, then of Bowling Green State University, Ohio, and now of the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. Florence Fasanelli served as MAA liaison and was instrumental in obtaining the National Science Foundation grants that funded the Institute.

The goal of IHMT was to increase the presence of history in the undergraduate mathematics curriculum by preparing participants to teach undergraduate courses in the history of mathematics and to incorporate historical issues in all of their teaching. IHMT did this and much more, exposing its participants to new research in mathematics history, introducing us to original sources, getting us started on using mathematics history in all of our courses, and inspiring many of us to do our own original research in mathematics history.

Since IHMT met from 1995 to 1999, we consider 2005-2009 to be our tenth anniversary years. Look for information about a reunion to be held during the 2007 Joint Meetings Jan. 5-8 in New Orleans.

Thank you to Pat Allaire, Herb Kasube, and Victor Katz for providing the photos on these pages.



*Above: IHMT Directors Fred Rickey (left) and Victor Katz (right), along with about 40 IHMT participants, are about to view the Archimedes Palimpsest at the Walters Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, in July of 1999.*



*At left: Eleanor Robson of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, England, gave a series of lectures and seminars on Mesopotamian mathematics during the July 1999 IHMT.*

*At right: IHMT Director Steven Schot calls the group to order.*





# Use in Teaching (IHMT) Marks Tenth Anniversary



*At left: Laura Smith, Joyce Janiga, and Marian Smith at the 1995 IHMT at American University, Washington, D.C.*



*At right: Nancy Thompson, Shawna Masters, and Jane Miller at the 1995 IHMT at American University, Washington, D.C.*

*Below: Harry Coonce (right) convinces Fred Rickey and Dan Curtin of the importance of the Mathematics Genealogy Project at the 1995 IHMT.*



For another retrospective of the Institute in the History of Mathematics and Its Use in Teaching, see the July 2006 issue of the newsletter of the International Study Group on Relations between History and Pedagogy of Mathematics (HPM). To download the *HPM Newsletter*, visit the website of the HPM Americas Section at <http://www.hpm-americas.org/> or the international organization's website at <http://www.clab.edc.uoc.gr/HPM/INDEX.HTM>



*Above: Peter Flusser gives a talk about Euler.*



*At left: Ed Sandifer gives a talk about Euler.*



## 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 new online magazine about the history of mathematics and its use in teaching. Part of MathDL, the mathematics digital library, *Convergence* is aimed at teachers of mathematics, be they secondary teachers, two- or four-year college teachers, or college teachers preparing secondary teachers. (We describe the range of topics as "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 all members to log in to the *Convergence* website at <http://convergence.mathdl.org> and see what the magazine has to offer. The magazine is currently free to all, due to the support of the National Science Foundation, but registration is required to access the site. A small subscription fee will be charged beginning later this year.

Among the types of material appearing in the magazine are the following:

- \* Expository articles on the history of various 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 as to how the material can be used in the classroom and point out strong points and possible pitfalls.
- \* 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 in some detail how to use the article in a classroom setting.
- \* Historical problems. These problems appear in a section entitled "Problems from another time," with new problems appearing frequently.
- \* What Happened Today in History? Each day, there is a listing of two or three "mathematical events" that happened on that date in history.
- \* Quotation of the day. A new and interesting quotation about mathematics from a historical figure appears in this section each 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. Where abstracts are available for a particular meeting, these will be included. We may also include copies of handouts for easy access, as well as links to the author's webpage, if available.

Currently, we have a limited supply of articles in our pipeline. 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. Hardcopy should be sent to Victor Katz, *Convergence*, Mathematical Association of America, 1529 18th St. N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Electronic files should be sent 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*, send your name and some indication of the kinds of material in which you are interested to 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.

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### HOMSIGMA Annual Guest Speakers

2004 JMM, Phoenix: Peggy Aldrich Kidwell, Mathematics Curator, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Inst., and Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, independent scholar, *Making Sense of Your Department's Material Culture*.

2005 JMM, Atlanta: Tom Archibald, Acadia University and Dibner Institute, MIT, *John Charles Fields: His Work in Mathematics and Research Organization*.

2006 JMM, San Antonio: Kim Plofker, University of Utrecht, *History of mathematics and original sources in India: a field-work report*.

2007 JMM, New Orleans: Ed Sandifer, Western Connecticut State University, *Euler!*

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## Historical Help Wanted for the MAA Centennial

*Anthony Piccolino, Chair*

*HOMSIGMAA Working Group on MAA Centennial*

The MAA will be celebrating 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 HOMSIGMAA 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 through various other ways.

We need your expertise and assistance in formulating ideas and activities to prepare for this event. HOMSIGMAA has organized a Working Group on the Centennial History of MAA to assist in this endeavor. The Working Group is asking each of you to send your ideas and suggestions to us and consider how you may want to contribute to this undertaking. Members of the Working Group are listed below and I am serving as chair of this group. Please give some thought to this project and contact me or any member of the Working Group with your ideas and suggestions. My contact information is included below:

### **HOMSIGMAA Working Group on the MAA Centennial:**

Anthony Piccolino (Chair), Montclair State University,  
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Benjamin V.C. Collins, Univ. of Wisconsin, Platteville,  
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Hector Rosario, Univ. of Puerto Rico,  
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### **HOMSIGMAA Elections to Be Held in October**

Beginning this year, the MAA national office will run HOMSIGMAA elections, with electronic balloting for Executive Committee positions to be held each October. Balloting for the two offices of Program Coordinator and Secretary-Treasurer will be held October 1-31, 2006. The link for the electronic ballot will be distributed via e-mail through the HOMSIGMAA listserv. Paper ballots will be provided by request only.

## 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 <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/>

Each March 31, on the birthday of René Descartes, the National Curve Bank announces the winner of the Renie Award for best mathematics web deposit of the year. The 2006 award went to "The Brachistochrone---The Famous Problem of Fastest Descent," a five-page deposit featuring both animation and history at <http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/brach/brach.htm>

The National Curve Bank is directed and maintained by Shirley Gray and Stewart Venit, Department of Mathematics, and Russ Abbott, Department of Computer Science, California State University, Los Angeles. Funded by the National Science Foundation since 2001, it now is part of the MAA's Mathematics Digital Library (MathDL).

## Changes to HOMSIGMAA Charter

At the 2006 Joint Meetings, the MAA asked HOMSIGMAA to make minor changes to its charter, initially approved in November of 2001. The most significant of these changes would be to add a procedure for filling vacant offices on the Executive Committee. The HOMSIGMAA Executive Committee has proposed the following policy to the MAA Executive Committee.

*Should an office other than Chair become vacant midterm, the Executive Committee, in consultation with the most recent Nominating Committee, shall appoint a member of the HOMSIGMAA to fill that office for the remainder of the term of office. Should the office of Chair of the HOMSIGMAA become vacant midterm, the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of the Executive Committee (to include the ex officio immediate Past Chair) to fill the office of Chair for the remainder of the term and, should this appointment create a vacant office, shall fill the vacant position according to the rules just given.*

This paragraph would become part (d) of Section 3, Elections, Appointments, and Terms of Office, of Article V, Administration, of the HOMSIGMAA charter. The revised charter will be posted at the HOMSIGMAA website after it is approved by the MAA Board of Governors, most likely during MathFest in August of 2006. If you would like a copy of the revised charter, please contact HOMSIGMAA Secretary-Treasurer Janet Beery at [janet\\_beery@redlands.edu](mailto:janet_beery@redlands.edu)



## HOMSIGMAA to Celebrate ... *continued from page 1*

Shell-Gellasch, and the special presentation "The Shapes of Sacred Space: The Geometry of Ancient Maya Art and Architecture" by Christopher Powell and Edwin Barnhart.

Other mathematics history activities included Joint Special Sessions on "Ancient and Non-western Mathematics" (organized by Duncan Melville) and "History of Mathematics" (organized by Joseph Dauben, Patti Hunter, and Karen Parshall) and Minicourses on "Geometry with History for Teaching Teachers" (David Henderson and Daina Taimina) and "Teaching a Course in the History of Mathematics" (Fred Rickey and Victor Katz).

**Student Paper Contest:** This year saw 17 undergraduate students participate in our third annual undergraduate writing contest in the history of mathematics. This year we had two winners, Jennifer Wiegert of Chapman University with a paper entitled *The Sagacity of Circles: A History of the Isoperimetric Problem* and Samantha Reynolds of the University of Missouri-Kansas City with her paper *Maria Gaetana Agnesi: Female Mathematician and Brilliant Expositor of the Eighteenth Century*. The papers will be posted on the HOMSIG-

MAA website in the near future.

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 HOMSIGMAA website at <http://www.maa.org/homsigmaa> or contact Amy Shell-Gellasch at [amy.shellgellasch@us.army.mil](mailto:amy.shellgellasch@us.army.mil). The contest is open to any undergraduate student and the deadline for next year is March 30, 2007.

**Virtual Book Club:** This past winter, HOMSIGMAA launched its Virtual Book Club. Twenty-nine members took part in the reading and e-mail discussion of *Gauss: Titan of Science*, by G. Waldo Dunnington with additional material by Jeremy Gray (MAA, 2004; originally published in 1955). For more information on the selection for summer of 2006, please contact Amy Shell-Gellasch at the e-mail address above.

### Visit the HOMSIGMAA Website! Join Our Electronic Mailing List!

*Andrew Perry, Electronic Resources Coordinator*

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

The website can be found at <http://www.maa.org/homsigmaa>, and includes HOMSIGMAA news, announcements of upcoming conferences, links to other history of mathematics pages, and other resources. Since we plan to publish the HOMSIGMAA Newsletter only once per year, please check the HOMSIGMAA 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 HOMSIGMAA 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 <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 the HOMSIGMAA 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 HOMSIGMAA 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 or (909)748-8620.



*The first HOMSIGMAA Executive Committee meets at the 2002 Joint Meetings in San Diego, CA. From left to right: Victor Katz, Amy Shell, Fred Rickey, Rob Bradley, and Herb Kasube (photo by Tom Drucker)*

## 2006 HOMSIGMAA Executive Committee

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