

OCTM C-F INTRODUCTION

October 15, 2008

This year's Christofferson-Fawcett Awardee began a professional career as a high school mathematics and physics teacher immediately after earning a B.S. in Education with a major in mathematics and minors in chemistry and physics from Kent State University. As head of the mathematics department, this person organized a math club. This person also developed a Mathematics Marathon. The club members would select teams of four members, and once each month the teams would work cooperatively on a selection of mathematics puzzles and, as they were called then, "brain teasers." During these early years, this person also earned a Masters in Education from Kent State University. This person was the chair of a multi-county science fair and served as a judge of other science fairs for many years.

This person was eventually appointed to the mathematics faculty at a local university, and for several years, held a joint appointment with the secondary education department. This person taught special methods for secondary mathematics teachers. In the class, this person would emphasize the accomplishments of NCTM, OCTM, and the local affiliate, as well as the value of joining them. This person also pursued graduate studies in mathematics and math education at Florida State University. Many of this person's former students have and are still serving as officers and/or committee members of a local affiliate and of OCTM. This person was a campus supervisor of student teachers and an advisor to the math club. Other than the usual college level

mathematics classes, this person taught two math classes for elementary teachers, and developed elective courses in algebra and geometry for elementary teachers. For many years, this person conducted summer math workshops for teachers. As director of an Eisenhower grant, this person chartered a bus trip for them to attend a regional NCTM meeting. This person introduced TAPS (which means “Team Approach to Problem Solving”) for area students in grades 7 and 8.

The Christofferson-Fawcett Awardee is a lifetime member of the OCTM and NCTM and helped organize a local affiliate of OCTM. He served on the OCTM Board for a 10-year stretch with perfect attendance – four years as President of an affiliate, three years as Vice President for College, and three years as a District Director. Later, he served as the NCTM Representative. He chaired many committees and compiled the first Human Resources Directory for OCTM, with topics and potential speakers on mathematics education. He was the program chair when the local affiliate hosted an annual OCTM conference and later served as general chair for another OCTM meeting. He was a site director for the annual OCTM high school mathematics contest for the first thirteen years of its existence. He has had articles published in the OCTM newsletter and has spoken at a variety of affiliate events, as well as PTAs, 4-H groups, and other meetings.

He has been a delegate to the NCTM assembly several times, representing the local affiliate as well as OCTM. He has spoken at many NCTM meetings from Seattle to Orlando, San Diego to Boston, and many places in between. While at the NCTM meetings, he spends much of his time at exhibits, checking out the latest books and

materials so that his students are kept up-to-date on the latest innovations and to remain qualified as a reviewer. He had problems published in the calendar section of *The Mathematics Teacher*, participated in NCTM's Mathematics for the 21st Century conference, and attended several annual meetings of the National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics and of the National Middle School Association.

He attended his first NCTM meeting in Cleveland in 1957 and hasn't stopped attending since. He participated in a Leaders Conference in Reno in 2006 and is scheduled to speak next month at the NCTM Regional conference, also in Reno. Now it seems reasonable to note that the "local university" at which he spent over 30 years is Youngstown State University and the local affiliate of OCTM and NCTM of which he was a leader among the founding members is the Eastern Ohio Council. Oh, yes, this year's Christofferson-Fawcett Awardee lives on a farm on which his grandfather built a home and which is located on Knauf Road near Youngstown. Please join me in congratulating our Awardee, Lee Knauf!