Notes on Distinguished Speakers - Hoffman and Brining

David Hoffman

Dr. David Hoffman received his Ph.D. in mathematics from Stanford University in 1971. He spent most of his career as a professor of mathematics at the University of Massachusetts, but he is presently an associate director at MSRI, Berkeley. Dr. Hoffman is an expert on minimal surfaces, and has 44 publications which use techniques of differential geometry and analysis to study curvature, embeddings, ends of a surface, and Gauss maps. Important tools include the limit tangent plane and the Weierstrass representation. He also uses computer graphics to investigate minimal surfaces and to guide the search for proofs about variationally defined surfaces. Dr. Hoffman was awarded the Vinci de Excellence in 1997, and the Chauvenet Prize in 1990 for a survey article published in the Mathematical Intelligencer.

Donald Brining

Mr. Donald Brining received his B.S. in mathematics and a B.A. in psychology from Kansas State University in 1969, and an M.S. in computer science from the University of Kansas in 1976. Mr. Brining entered active duty in the Air Force in 1969, and taught computer science at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. He worked as a computer systems analyst for the Air Force in Ottawa, Canada and in Omaha, Nebraska. He became the Director of Information Systems in San Antonio, Texas, and his unit received the Swindell Award for supporting electronic security. Mr. Brining retired from the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1989, and has since worked in government in St. Lawrence County, New York. He was the Director of Data Processing and Director of Central Services, and is presently the County Administrator. Mr. Brining received the Frank C. Moore award in 1998 for public administration.