

First Annual Dongxing Wang Mathematics Education Lecture

Department of Mathematics
University of Florida

Issues of the Transition to College Mathematics

Thursday, February 18, 2010
4:00-4:40 pm
LIT 339, Little Hall Atrium

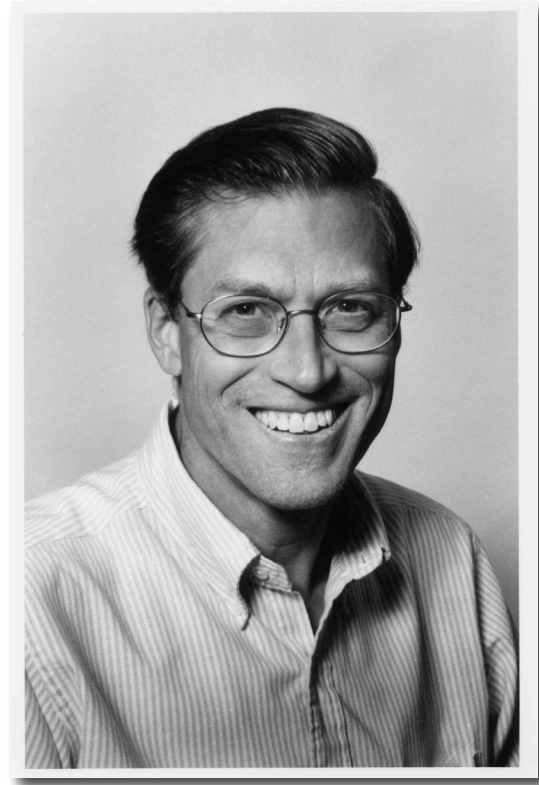
Special Lecture by

**Professor David Bressoud, President
Mathematical Association of America**
Department of Mathematics
Macalester College

*The talk will be followed by a discussion
by those present of related issues in
mathematics education.*

**George Andrews, President
American Mathematical Society**
Department of Mathematics
Penn State University

*will be another invaluable resource
person present for the discussion.*



Abstract. Over the past quarter century, 2- and 4-year college enrollment in first semester calculus has remained constant while high school enrollment in calculus has grown tenfold, from 60,000 to 600,000, and continues to grow at 6% per year. We have passed the cross-over point where each year more students study first semester calculus in US high schools than in all 2- and 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. In theory, this should be an engine for directing more students toward careers in science, engineering, and mathematics. In fact, it is having the opposite effect. This talk will present what is known about the effects of this growth and what needs to happen in response within our high schools and universities.