



SENIOR SCIENCE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, No. 3
April 2017

**General Membership Meeting
Monday, 15 May 2017, 7:00 PM
Harford Community College
Chesapeake Center, Dining Hall South**

**“Fractals” by Chris Jones
HCC Professor of Mathematics**

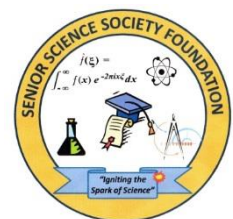
Abstract: A fractal is a never-ending pattern that is self-similar across different scales, created by repeating a simple process in a feedback loop. Although they have long existed in nature, the term was coined in only 1975. This presentation will discuss how the study of fractals began, show how they are generated mathematically, and (of course) look at some pretty pictures of real world examples.

Harford Community College President Visits Senior Science Society

On Wednesday, 13 April 2017, Harford Community College (HCC) President, Dr. Dianna Phillips visited the Senior Science Society (SSS) at their monthly Board of Directors meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to acquaint the (relatively) new HCC President with the activities of our Society. Since SSS is identified as an affiliate of Harford Community College, the SSS Board felt our existence is something about which she should know. Dick Schwanke had a short informational packet showing the SSS support to HCC and the HCC support to SSS. The slides were interspersed with questions from the president. A list of modules and venues for the 2016-17 school year were shown. The last two slides noted the future activities for the SSS. You may view the slides by visiting http://faculty.harford.edu/faculty/DSchwank/Senior_Science/Phillips%20presentation.pdf.

The HCC President seemed genuinely pleased to hear more about the SSS. She suggested we visit the HCC Early Learning Center as another possible venue for SSS demonstrations. There was mention of HCC trying to work with the Harford County Public Schools as apparently the College has experienced the same things as the SSS. There is an open question on how the president could help the SSS beyond the existing support.

SSS Board of Directors meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month in the Aberdeen Hall Conference Room at HCC, beginning at 8:00 AM. The meetings are open to all SSS members and you are welcome to attend.



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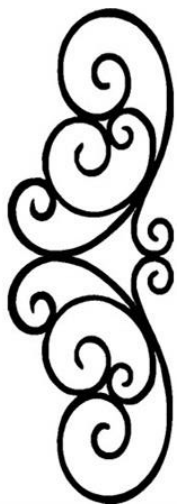
It is with regret that we accepted Clarence Fry's decision to step down from the SSS Foundation Board of Directors. We greatly appreciate Clarence's numerous contributions to the SSSF where he shared great ideas with humor and insight; provided constructive review of our grant proposals; and successfully garnered financial support from the APG Federal Credit Union for our STEM activities beyond HCC. Clarence, we thank you for your active involvement, and wish you and your family well.

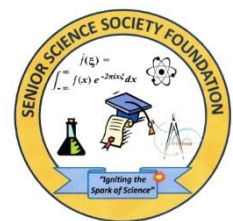
We continue to seek financial support for the SSSF programs. Please help us to expand our outreach by identifying grant opportunities, community organizations that provide funds to non-profit organizations, and service clubs to which you belong. Thank you for your help and interest.



Northeastern Maryland Technology Center Visionary Awards Ceremony

In our last issue, we mentioned that the Northeastern Maryland Technology Center had announced that two of this year's Visionary Award Winners for volunteer efforts toward building a STEM-educated workforce included our own SSS Vice President Dick Schwanke, and Marlene Lieb, former Associate Vice President of HCC Continuing Education and Training Division, and one of the major forces responsible for the formation of the SSS back in 2008. The Award Ceremony took place at the Richlin Ballroom in Edgewood on 23 February, with more than 200 leaders in industry, government, and education in attendance. A photo of the event shows both Dick (top row, center) and Marlene (bottom row, far right) looking good, with the winners assembled in such a fashion that Dick appears to be the center of attention! Once again, congratulations to all.





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← Rob Lieb presents "Sweet Sounds of Music" at Fallston Library.

Al Horst → guides students at Hickory ES with "Fun with Triangles".



Rounding Out the School Year 2016-2017

As we enter the final weeks of this year's SSS support to STEM programs at our county schools (and other venues) with hands-on science demonstrations, table talks, and other educational events, it seems a good time to take count of our efforts to date: over 120 presentations of various types during over 60 days of visits, and totaling over 2000 hours of personal contact with students, teachers and parents.

Schools visited one or more times have included Bel Air MS, North East MS, Forest Lakes ES, Hickory ES, Forest Hill ES, Darlington ES, Roye Williams ES, Church Creek ES, Crossroads S, Red Pump ES, and Bakerfield ES. Other venues have included the Boys and Girls Club of Edgewood, APG Boy Scouts, HCC STEM Day, Fallston Library, NMTC STEM night at John Carroll HS and Aberdeen HS, Harford County In-Service Training at Patterson Mill HS and C. Milton Wright HS, and student mentoring at several locations.

Yet to come this year are additional visits to Hickory ES on 17 May, St. Joan of Arc ES on 27 April, Edgewood ES also on 27 April, Bel Air MS on 15 May, and Churchville ES on 2 June.

While most of these presentations were made by SSS Board members, six general members participated actively in these events this year. Many of this year's events were evening events, allowing members who are still employed during the day to contribute to and enjoy working directly with our target audiences. Next year, we look forward to seeing many more of you developing and presenting demonstration modules and table talks, as they represent the heart of our program -- "Igniting the Spark of Science" in Harford County youth and beyond.

Congratulations and Thanks to Dean Deborah Wrobel

The members of Senior Science Society would like to express both their congratulations and their sincere appreciation to Dr. Deborah Wrobel, Dean of the STEM Division at HCC, upon the announcement of her retirement and for her years of valuable support to our organization and programs to "Ignite the Spark of Science" in Harford County youth.