

George Francis is professor of Mathematics, the Campus Honors Program, and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, and senior research scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His research includes descriptive topology, numerical geometry, geometrical computer graphics, visual mathematics, dynamical systems, catastrophe and control theory, differential geometry and topology, riemann surfaces, low dimensional geometry and topology, history of the calculus and teacher education in science and mathematics.

He is a member of SIAM. Francis received his BSmcl from Notre Dame in 1958, an AM from Harvard in 1960, and the PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1967. We was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow in 1959, a Lloyd Postdoctoral Fellow in 1968 and received an Amoco Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Instruction, 1994.

Since the donation by Silicon Graphics of the Renaissance Experimental Laboratory to the NCSA in 1989, Prof. Francis has been teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in geometrical computer graphics. His “illiMath” team of students presented the “Etruscan Venus” in the Interactive Image exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, “A post-Euclidean Walkabout” in the CAVE virtual reality theater at Siggraph’94, the “Laterna mathMagica” on the at Supercomputing’95, “Superball” at Supercompting’98, and “The Optiverse”, Electronic Theater, SIGGRAPH98 and International Congress of Mathematicians, Berlin, 1998, and numerous other international conferences. In 2006 he co-curated “Calcul*rt” at the Krannert Art Museum of the University of Illinois.

Summers 1997-2006 Francis has conducted NSF sponsored Research Experiences for Undergraduates under the auspices of the NCSA, the VIGRE program in the Mathematics Department, and as part of his 5 year NSF grant under the “Workforce in the Mathematical Sciences” program.

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