

Dr. Gary L. Ebert
2011 Outstanding Alumnus

Dr. Gary L. Ebert graduated from Beaver Dam High School as the class valedictorian in 1965. With the help of a local Green Giant scholarship he attended the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics with Phi Beta Kappa honors in 1969. After working as a mathematical programmer for one year at the Chevrolet Engineering Center in Warren, Michigan he returned to the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where he received a Master's Degree in 1971 and a Ph.D. in 1975, both in mathematics.

Dr. Ebert's first academic job was a two year position as a Visiting Lecturer in the Math Department at Texas Tech University. He then joined the Department of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Delaware as an Assistant Professor in 1977, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1981, and to Full Professor in 1987. He will retire from the department in August of 2011, at which time he will be honored with the title of Emeritus Professor. During various sabbatical leaves Dr. Ebert has held Visiting Professorships at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario (1983-1984), Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama (1990-1991), Universita Basilicata in Potenza, Italy (Fall of 2004), and Adelaide University in Adelaide, South Australia (Spring of 2005). Dr. Ebert also has hosted numerous researchers from Italy, Belgium, Hungary and England for extended visits at the University of Delaware to work on various projects.

Dr. Ebert has written over 80 research papers that have been published in peer-refereed internationally-acclaimed journals in the mathematical sciences, mostly in the areas of finite geometry and combinatorics. About 25 of these articles are solely authored, and the rest are co-authored with various colleagues from around the world. He has co-authored two books: the undergraduate textbook *Discrete Mathematics* (written with Ron Baker), and the research monograph *Unitals in Projective Planes* (written with Sue Barwick). Dr. Ebert's research has been partially funded by grants from the National Security Agency almost continuously since 1993. He has been invited to give plenary lectures at international conferences in Ischia (Italy), La Roche-en-Ardenne (Belgium), Irsee (Germany), Oisterwijk (Netherlands), Palermo (Sicily), and Assisi (Italy). He also has been invited to give numerous colloquia at various universities throughout the world (mostly in Italy, Australia, China, and the U.S.), and has given dozens of contributed talks at various conferences worldwide. An international Conference on Designs, Codes and Geometries honoring the life-time work of Dr. Ebert was held in Lewes, Delaware in March of 2010 with about 40 participants from the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, China, and the U.S.

Dr. Ebert's teaching repertoire is quite extensive. He has taught over 25 different courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels at the University of Delaware, many of these courses several times. He also was invited to give a series of lectures at the two week Summer School in Finite Geometry given in Bella Muro, Italy (1995). This summer school was intended for Ph.D. students in Italy as well as young Italian faculty interested in this area of research. Dr. Ebert has directed the work of six Ph.D. students at the University of Delaware, all of whom have gone on to successful careers of their own. Two of them are now chairs of their respective math

departments (Mary Washington University in Virginia and Lycoming College in Pennsylvania), and one has developed his own consulting firm in the information security business.

Dr. Ebert has chaired numerous committees at the departmental and college level at the University of Delaware. He was Director of Undergraduate Studies in 1992-1993, and was one of three coordinators of the Delaware Mathematical Talent Search for gifted high school students from 1993 to 1996. Dr. Ebert has played an active role in the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), was the departmental liaison to the Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware (EPADEL) section of MAA for many years, and served for three years on the Directing Committee of EPADEL. Dr. Ebert is a reviewer for *Mathematical Reviews* and *Zentralblatt Math*, referees articles submitted for publication in numerous international journals, and is one of the managing editors for the journal *Innovations in Incidence Geometry*.