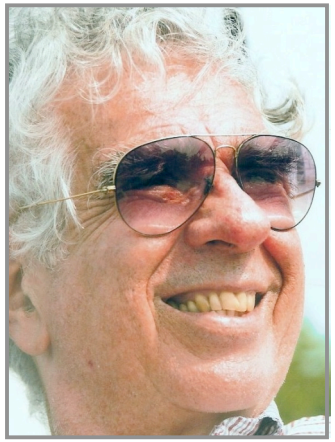
In celebration of Math Awareness Week, The Bryn Mawr College Math Department presents:



Herb Wilf

Herbert S. Wilf

Thomas A. Scott Professor of Mathematics

University of Pennsylvania

Sister Celine, as I knew her

Sister Celine

Math Awareness Week!

In Herb Wilf's words, "It is not common that the 'father' of a particular branch of mathematics is a woman. We should celebrate such women and do our best to learn as much as we can about them." To this end Wilf and collaborator Doron Zeilberger of Rutgers University sought out Sister Mary Celine Fasenmyer, a Catholic nun whose doctoral thesis introduced the groundbreaking ideas they developed into the influential theory of computerized proofs of identities. This work eventually won them the Leroy P. Steele Prize, the highest honor bestowed by the American Mathematical Society for an individual piece of mathematical research. As a result of some creative searching, Wilf and Zeilberger found Sister Celine years after she had all but disappeared from the mathematical scene, and recorded an interview with her on videotape. In recent years Wilf has edited the footage from this meeting, and incorporated it into a lecture honoring her life and mathematical contributions. Wilf will give the first and only Philadelphia-area presentation of this lecture at Bryn Mawr College.

Monday, April 7

4:15 PM

Park Sciences

Room 243

The Interview Crew

The Interview Crew with Sister Celine