



DE WITT L. SUMNERS Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and member of the Institute of Molecular Biophysics Department of Mathematics, Florida State University

PhD, University of Cambridge, 1967



Summary of Research Interests

- Molecular Biology
- Polymer Conformations
- 🟓 Human Brain Project

De Witt Sumners

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

De Witt Lee Sumners is an American mathematician, having been the <u>Robert O.</u> <u>Lawton</u> Distinguished Professor at <u>Florida State University</u>.^{[1][2]} He is known for his research in <u>knot theory</u>, <u>topological fluid dynamics</u>, and their application to <u>DNA</u>.^[3]

Sumners earned his Ph.D. in 1967 from the <u>University of Cambridge</u> under the supervision of John F. P. Hudson.^[4] He retired in 2007, and became a <u>professor</u> <u>emeritus</u>. In 2012, he was named as one of the inaugural <u>Fellows</u> of the <u>American</u> <u>Mathematical Society</u>.^[5]

Biography: Professor De Witt L. Sumners - Florida State University

De Witt L. Sumners is Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at Florida State University, where he also serves as chair of the mathematics department. He holds a bachelor of science degree in physics from Louisiana State University and a doctor of philosophy degree in mathematics from the University of Cambridge, England. He has held visiting positions at Kwansei Gakuin University, Japan (1988 and 1993), the University of Geneva, Switzerland (1991), and Waseda University, Japan (1996). His research interests revolve around applications of mathematics, especially topology, to molecular biology and medical imaging.

Since 1995, Professor Sumners has served as a Co-Director of the Program in Mathematics and Molecular Biology, a national multi-university interdisciplinary research and training consortium, funded by the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Interfaces Program. The overall goal of PMMB is the continued expansion of the applications of mathematics to molecular biology. The intellectual focus for this program is the development of mathematical and computational tools for the design and analysis of experiments on key questions in molecular biology.

Professor Sumners is a highly respected lecturer and classroom teacher. Among the many honors that have been bestowed upon him are three Florida State University Teaching Improvement Program Awards, the Phi Eta Sigma Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Florida State University Professorial Excellence Program Award.





Advisor: John F. P. Hudson

Students:

Click here to see the students listed in chronological order.

Name	School	Year	Descendants
Arsuaga, Francisco	Florida State University	2000	
Cruz-White, Irma	Florida State University	2003	
Darcy, Isabel	Florida State University	1997	7
<u>Diao, Yuanan</u>	Florida State University	1990	5
<u>Dinov, Ivaylo</u>	Florida State University	1998	3
Ernst, Claus	Florida State University	1988	
<u>Hitt, L.</u>	Florida State University	1977	
Laing, Christian	Florida State University	2007	
Mann, Jennifer	Florida State University	2007	
Motter, Wendell	Florida State University	1973	
Sun, Biansheng	Florida State University	1995	
Vazquez, Mariel	Florida State University	2000	
<u>Woods, John</u>	Florida State University	1973	

According to our current on-line database, De Witt Sumners has 13 <u>students</u> and 28 <u>descendants</u>. We welcome any additional information.

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De Witt Sumners

Florida State University, Department of Mathematics, Emeritus

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