Judith A. Silver* (silver@marshall.edu), Department of Mathematics, Marshall University, One John Marshall Drive, Huntington, WV 25701, and Anna Mummert, Donald W. Silver and Leah Treadaway Billo. Conics on a Sphere.
In this presentation we investigate conics (ellipses, parabolas, and hyperbolas) on a sphere, by extending the projective geometry definition for conics on a plane. In projective geometry, a two-dimensional planar conic can be defined as the locus of intersection points of two pencils of lines. A pencil of lines is the set all lines through a given point. We describe two different methods to generate planar conics using pencils of lines, one method easily generates circles and transformations of $y=1 / x$, and the other easily generates ellipses and other hyperbolas. The two generation methods are extended to the spherical case. Conics on a sphere are defined as the locus of intersection points of two pencils of great circles. We provide a Mathematica program to visualize conics on a sphere. In the spherical case, there is no clear graphical distinction between ellipses, parabolas, and hyperbolas; they can, however, be distinguished by analyzing the generating lines. (Received September 21, 2012)

