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**Jozef H. Przytycki\*** ([przytyck@gwu.edu](mailto:przytyck@gwu.edu)), George Washington University, Phillips Hall, Washington, DC 20052-0001. *Motivated by Mark Kidwell - from Hoste-Kidwell multivariable HOMFLYPT polynomial to Witten conjecture.*

In Fall of 1986, after coming from Poland in July 1986, I attended conferences in Santa Cruz and in Santa Barbara. At one of them (or both?) I heard the talk by Mark Kidwell on his effort, with Jim Hoste, of finding many variable HOMFLYPT polynomial. I will start my talk describing this period, between July 1986 and April 1987 (when the idea of skein modules became clear for me). I will sketch the history of skein modules of 3-dimensional manifolds stressing influence of Hoste-Kidwell work. (Received September 08, 2020)