1077-20-1838   **John Meier***, Department of Mathematics, Lafayette College, Easton, PA 18042. *The BNS-invariant of pure braid groups.* Preliminary report.

The first Σ-invariant of the full braid groups is rather uninteresting. The full braid group B_n contains a central element that generates the abelianization, $\mathbb{Z}$. However, as Ralph Strebel pointed out to us, the situation for the pure braid groups is more complicated. In this talk I will describe the progress made to date on computing $\Sigma^1(PB_n)$.

This is joint work with Nicholas Koban and Jon McCammond. (Received September 21, 2011)