



Mathbits

Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics

www.mctm.org

Catch the Excitement!

On March 22-23, MCTM held its annual Spring Conference in Duluth, holding sessions simultaneously with MnMATYC at the DECC (Duluth Entertainment Convention Center). Highlights included a keynote address by Lee Stiff, president of NCTM; a luncheon visit from Dr. Humor; and two days packed with over 160 sessions for math educators from Kindergarten to College. Over 1300 people attended the two-day conference. Ninety-eight percent of the participants that returned the red evaluation form rated the conference good to excellent! We sincerely thank all those who helped with the conference as a speaker, presider, or volunteered in some way. It takes many people to put on a conference. Hope to see you at our fall conference!



Keynote Speakers Dr. Lee Stiff (left) and Dr. Stuart Robertshaw, "Dr. Humor," right.



Session 91: Tina Mitchell and students from Hopkins West Junior High School



Session 132: Constructing a Kaleidoscope



Exhibitor Joan Cotter

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President's Column



I am thrilled and honored to have been selected as President of MCTM when Tom Muchlinski had to resign. I am grateful to Tom, Arnie Cutler and many others who have given me a "crash course" to try to get me up-to-speed for this most important position. I was President of MCTM from 1979-1981 and while I have remained an active member, I am impressed with how effective an organization MCTM has become over the last twenty years. Our conferences are nationally recognized as superior and the structure of our organization is efficient and responsive to member concerns.

I began my career in the Minneapolis Public schools by teaching at Northeast Junior High for eight years (where I *really* learned how to teach), and then I taught at Edison, North and Southwest High Schools for twenty-three more years. After receiving "an early retirement offer that I couldn't refuse," I have been "recycled," teaching mathematics at Anoka-Ramsey Community College and I will retire this spring. I learned years ago that my students would learn best if I had a positive attitude about my job and that I needed to surround myself with positive people. Every school has its group of complainers that continually focus on what's wrong with kids, the school, the administration, whatever. They may hang around the boiler room or the faculty lounge and their first words about students are often "They can't...". If I spend too much time with them, they pull me down and I forget that I need to focus on what students can do. That's why MCTM and professional involvement in mathematics education has been so important to me. The people I meet at MCTM meetings, while well aware of the difficulties our profession encounters, are searching for new and better ideas in a positive way. These are the people that I want to be with so that's why I am excited about being on the MCTM Board again.

These are probably some of the most difficult times for educators that I can remember. Forgetting that schools reflect society, public officials, the legislature, and sometimes parents and community members seem to be taking out their frustrations on teachers. Mandated state and federal testing, budget shortfalls and the low morale that accompanies the lack of contract settlements make it difficult to remain positive so it's important that we rely on each other for support and affirmation, especially through MCTM activities. Sometimes even our colleagues in higher education subvert our efforts to develop mathematics programs for the children of Minnesota that are in line with the NCTM Standards. As Lee Stiff, NCTM President reminded us in Duluth, the standards have been around for thirteen years – what are we waiting for? Our debate should not be about *if* we implement the Standards but rather *how* we can best do it. One of the roles of MCTM is to enable that discussion and we need you to participate in it. As teachers, we cannot be pulled down by the negative influences that we encounter but we must pull together to provide the kind of mathematics education that we know is best for our students.

One way to associate with positive, forward moving math educators is to offer to help out on a MCTM task force or committee. The Board is continually in the process of responding to the needs of our members and is currently looking for people to help out. These are usually small tasks that don't require a lot of time at meetings. The nominations committee, will, of course, always be open to volunteers. Please let me or any other Board member know of your willingness to "try us out" or of your ideas about how we can serve you better.

MCTM is making a difference in Minnesota – catch the excitement!

Larry Luck
MCTM President

MCTM Honorary Members Recognized

During the spring conference in Duluth, the MCTM Board of Directors awarded honorary memberships to two outstanding mathematics educators, Sharon Stenglein and Dick Hanson. Honorary membership is conferred upon retired members who have made significant contributions to the Council and to mathematics education on the state or national level. Both Sharon and Dick served as vice-presidents on the MCTM Board of Directors. Sharon recently retired as the mathematics specialist for the Minnesota Department of Children, Families, and Learning. Prior to working at MDCFL, she taught at both the high school and college levels. Dick is retired from the Burnsville district where he taught high school mathematics. He is a past recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching. Both Sharon and Dick continue to be involved in mathematics education, working with the professional development of pre-service and in-service teachers. Their acceptance speeches follow.

“Thank you for this great honor. There is not group from whom I would rather receive such an honor than this Council. I particularly want to thank the MCTM Board for considering and electing me to honorary membership. I am here tonight only because I have stood on the shoulders of many giants. I would like to mention a few of my giants.

Sharon Stenglein



“First of all, most of whatever I have accomplished professionally has been possible only because of the undying support of my husband, John. The program lists him as an “Assistant Consultant,” but he is so much more. When I became state mathematics specialist, John took over most of the work connected with family and home. This was not insignificant, since our children were young teenagers at the time. A story may illustrate the depth of his support. After I had been in the position about a year, I was in imminent danger of being laid off because of state budget cuts. We went for a walk one Sunday afternoon, and I asked, “Would you be relieved if I were laid off, given all the extra work you have had this year?” John’s answer was “No. You have learned so much this year that it would be a shame if you didn’t have more chances to use the learning.”

“My wonderful children, too, have been a big part of my professional life. Early in my tenure as state specialist, they developed what they called “Mom sightings.” At supper, someone would ask “Has anyone seen Mom?” The answer might be: “She was sighted passing through the kitchen about an hour ago carrying a suitcase. She must be gone somewhere.” Mary Indelicato, retired mathematics instructor from Normandale Community College, gave me my all time favorite cartoon. It showed three children sitting at a table, with their father standing beside the table next to a video monitor. He was saying, “Your mother will not be with us for dinner again tonight, but we have a video of one night she was with us last week.”

“John Erickson, who died last week, is another of my giants. Much of what I know about good professional development I learned from John, who will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues. I remember another scene toward the end of my first year working for the state that illustrates John Erickson’s support. We were standing in the parking lot as we finished packing up after a conference. I was tired and discouraged, and feeling very inadequate. John patted me on the shoulder and assured me that I was doing a fine job and should continue. He always served as a model of humble, behind the scenes leadership, supporting others to develop their own leadership. And one final comfort: John usually had a messy desk.

“My major advisor in graduate school at Northwestern University, E.H.C. Hildebrandt, influenced my concept of mathematics. He helped me understand that it is beautiful, exciting, open-ended and fun. Peggy House, now at Northern Michigan University, was the first and maybe the only teacher I have had who modeled the vision of the standards. The teachers of mathematics in Minnesota have provided shoulders on which to stand. You have been always energizing, and occasionally exasperating (never those of you here, of course). You are dearly beloved and I miss you.

(Continued on page 4.)

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Sharon Stenglein

“Special mention goes to those with whom I have collaborated in the past twelve years, especially those colleagues with SciMathMN, the MCTM Board and the Best Practice Network. You have taught me the meaning of working together, so that I now feel deprived when I must work alone.

“In closing, I would remind you to keep your eye on the *mathematics* as well as the students, and to quote Garrison Keillor: **Be Well. Do Good Work, and Keep in Touch!**”

Sharon Stenglein

Dick Hanson



“MCTM has shaped my life as a teacher for as long as I can remember . . . and for things I cannot remember. I keep a diary– in 1965 dues were \$5.00; floods affected attendance at the Spring Conference in Richfield. In 1966 dues went up to \$5.25. We met in White Bear and Irving Adler was our keynote speaker. In ‘67 it was at Robbinsdale and we enjoyed a buffet at the Hopkins House. That afternoon Ben Hogan (who was 54) shot 36, 30 at Augusta National. In ‘69 we hosted the NCTM National in Minneapolis and in ‘71 we met in the brand new Minneapolis South High School.

“But what I remember best is how often MCTM absolved me from teaching *only* the textbook; how often you encouraged me to take risks and try exciting new ways to engage students in the joys of mathematics. The Council enhances both teaching technique and the esteem that makes good teaching possible.

“We are deeply grateful to elementary teachers who show us hands-on learning with ingenious manipulatives that create the need to know; for visits to their classrooms where the space is so inviting that often children are reluctant to leave when the bell rings. We are grateful to middle and high school teachers who have taught us that different isn’t always better–but that better is always different. Those classrooms are often so charged from the teachable moment just passed that the room loses only part of that energy when the students walk out the door. We also are grateful to so many university, college and community college teachers who invite us to seminars, introduce us to authors, ask us to participate in workshops and provide us with such splendid resources.

“Education is personal–at its best it is intensely personal. The gift of this community is that you see more in us than we sometimes see in ourselves, just as good teachers see more in students than the students see in themselves. You help us to be better than we know how to be. The result is our teaching is laced with artistic and spiritual dimensions. It is always a rare pleasure for me to participate in these Conferences. It is an annual source of inspiration to see how many of you come; some teachers even start their Spring Breaks here!

“I am grateful for this opportunity to thank you for your continued affirmation of what I try to do as a teacher. You know how I value my association with you. You cannot know how deeply I am touched by the recognition you have given me tonight.

“Thank you!”

Dick Hanson



www.mctm.org

MCTM Fall Conference

Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Joint Meeting with Minnesota Science Teachers

Science and Mathematics: In the classroom and beyond

Friday • October 18, 2002

Eastview High School
6200-140th St. West, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Schedule Highlights

- 7:30 • Registration
- 7:30 – 1:30 • Exhibits Open
- 8:00 – 9:15 • Opening Session
- 9:30 – 10:15 • Session I
- 10:30 – 11:15 • Session II
- 11:30 – 12:15 • Session III
- 12:30 – 1:15 • Box Lunch from
Panera Bread Co.
- 1:30 – 2:15 • Session IV
- 2:20 – 2:40 • Door Prizes

Registration Fees

Includes lunch

	Pre-Registered	On-Site
Member	\$25	\$30
Student Member	\$12	\$17
Non-Member	\$40	\$45
Student Non-Member	\$20	\$25

Special \$10 rate for each Math Ed Student if group from same college registers together, in advance, with one payment.

Over 50 Sessions for Kindergarten through Higher Ed throughout the day

Sessions will focus on classroom practice and applications. Registrants for the MCTM Conference are welcome to attend any MnSTA science sessions.

Directions to Eastview High School

from the north

take Cedar (Highway 77) south to 140th Street. Travel east (left) on 140th Street (about 1.25 miles). Eastview High School will be on the south (right) side of the street. Turn in at the sign (there is a stop light), park in the west lot, and enter through the west entrance.

from the south

Take 35E to County Road 42. Travel east (right) on County Road 42 to Cedar. Turn north (left) on Cedar. Travel north on Cedar to 140th Street. Travel east (right) on 140th Street (about 1.25 miles). Eastview High School will be on the south (right) side of the street. Turn in at the sign (there is a stop light), park in the west lot, and enter through the west entrance.

For more information contact:

Cathy Wick, Conference Chair
651-699-0506
cwick@ties.k12.mn.us

Kathy Cramer, Conference Chair
612-624-7312
crame013@umn.edu

Brad Larson, Conference Chair
507-444-8889
blarson@owatonna.k12.mn.us

Arnie Cutler, Registration
612-626-8326
cutler@tc.umn.edu

Visit www.mctm.org for registration and speaker forms and more information as it becomes available.

Presentation Proposal
Minnesota Council of Teachers of Mathematics
Fall Conference, Friday, October 18, 2002
Eastview High School, Apple Valley

Name _____

Preferred mailing address (This address will be used for all correspondence with you).

Street/PO Box _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Fax _____

Email Address _____

Name and school or professional affiliation as they should appear in the conference program

Name (please print clearly) _____

Affiliation _____

City/State _____

Please circle the appropriate grade levels for your presentation:

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 College General

Presentation category: _____ 45 minutes _____ double session _____ "Table Talk" lunch session

Title of Presentation: (Two lines maximum; 36 spaces per line maximum)

Additional Description for Program – Optional (20 words maximum)

Equipment or facilities needs:

_____ Second overhead _____ Calculators: Model TI- _____ _____ VCR/Monitor

Other Needs:

Please return by May 15 to:

Kathleen Cramer, 252 Peik Hall, 159 Pillsbury Drive SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0208
Fax: 612-624-7312
Any questions? Crame013@umn.edu or 612-624-7312

**A Message from
the District 1
Director**

Thanks for coming to the District 1 meeting held on Friday, March 22 during the MCTM Spring Conference. The following teachers attended: Russell Petricka, Ron Randall, Michelle Bacon, Waneta Buck, Melissa Gregg, Gregg Grano, Cory Sheldahl, Carolyn Kom, Joan Rustad-Huisman, Erika Schwanke, Amy Wix, Dave Choukalas, Jacob Burkman, Dana Patenaude, Tim Roemhildt, and Sue Zarn.

Rosemary Heinitz
Jon Arnold

**Spring Conference
Prize Winners**

Congratulations to the following people who won door prizes at the MCTM Spring Conference:

\$25 NCTM Gift Certificate

Joan Rustad-Huisman, District 1
Sharon Carter, District 2
Diane Calhoun, District 4
Kristin Johnson, District 5
Kim Pavlovich, District 6

Palm Pilot (Presidents' Reception): Faye Y. Wooten

Concluding Session Door Prizes

\$1,000 Savings Bond: Mark Christenson, Peggy Lubozynski, Renee Scholz
Palm Pilot: Tammy Brooks, Harvey Keynes, Jodi Murphy, Kari Robinson,
Deborah Wentz

\$100 Gift Certificate from Calculators, Inc: Jody Frobig, Tom Kersten, Kay Wohlhuter

Duluth Vacation Package: Guy Kelm

Autographed copy of Dr. Humor's book: Mary Thurow



Problem solving takes many forms at the Spring Conference.



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Summer Professional Development Opportunities

Are you looking for a change of pace this summer? Consider one of the following professional development opportunities. Programs are listed alphabetically by title and include information about the intended audience, date, location, cost, sponsoring institution, contact address or telephone number, and program description. Further information can be obtained by contacting the organization or institution sponsoring the program.

NCTM Academy—Algebra; all grade levels; \$249 for members; \$349 for non-members; 800-235-7566 or www.nctm.org/academy; Provides teachers, administrators, and others in mathematics education with the resources and practical know-how to put the Principles and Standards for School Mathematics into classroom use.

All four grade bands; July 11-12; Dallas Texas

All four grade bands; July 23-24; Indianapolis, Indiana

All four grade bands; August 14-15; Virginia Beach, Virginia

NCTM Academy—Geometry; all grade levels; \$495 for members; \$595 for non-members; 800-235-7566 or www.nctm.org/academy; Provides teachers, administrators, and others in mathematics education with the resources and practical know-how to put the Principles and Standards for School Mathematics into classroom use.

Grade Band 9-12; June 9-14; Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Grade Band 3-5 and 6-8; June 23-28; Seattle, Washington

Grade Band PK-2; July 7-12; Springfield, Massachusetts

Summer Mathematics Institute I, 2002; elementary and middle school teachers; June 3–June 21, 2002; Bemidji State University;

Eisenhower Professional Development Grant; Glen Richgels; 218-755-2824 or www.bemidjistate.edu/grichgels.

Discrete Mathematics for Elementary and Middle School Teachers (3 sem cr); Becoming a Professional Mathematics Teacher I (1 sem cr); Probability for Elementary and Middle School Teachers (3 sem cr). Our project is designed to provide current state of the art instruction to teachers who show good potential but who do not necessarily have strong backgrounds in Discrete Mathematics and Probability. A special effort to include teachers of underrepresented groups and teachers from private schools will be made.

Summer Teaching Institute; secondary teachers; June 23-28; Carleton College, Northfield; \$755 (some scholarships available); 507-646-4038 or summer@carleton.edu; www.carleton.edu/campus/sap.

The Summer Teaching Institute is designed for teachers of existing or proposed Advanced Placement courses, enriched classes, accelerated classes, or small group tutorials for students in grades 10 through 12 who are capable of college-level work. Programs include calculus, statistics, and computer science (Java programming language).

Weaving the Strands 2002; K-6 teachers; June 17-20 and June 24-27 in Gilbert MN with academic year follow-up; College of St. Scholastica; funded by Minnesota Higher Education Service Organization; Dr. Alice Guckin; aguckin@css.edu or 218-728-6570 (home) or 218-723-6389 (office secretary). Participants will expand their mathematics knowledge in the areas of chance and data handling, explore the role of chance and data handling in the school curriculum and their connections to other strands.

2001 Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics

The following teachers were Minnesota State finalists for the 2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics:

Elementary: James Brickwedde, Mary Kennedy, and Leslie Kronk
Secondary: Carol Borne and Donald Karlgaard

The 2001 Presidential Awardees for Excellence in Teaching Mathematics are James Brickwedde, Meadowbrook Elementary, Golden Valley, and Donald Karlgaard, Brainerd High School, Brainerd.

Congratulations to the awardees and finalists!

MATHCOUNTS State Competition Results

The 2002 MATHCOUNTS State Competition was held on March 16 at the Radisson Conference Center in Plymouth, MN. Winners, in order of finish, are:

1. Patrick Miles, St. Odilia School, Shoreview, 8th Grade
2. Andy Cochrane, Cook County Middle School, Grand Marais, 8th Grade
3. Eric Lauer-Hunt, Mahtomedi Middle School, Mahtomedi, 7th Grade
4. James Benhardus, St. Anthony Middle School, St. Anthony, 7th Grade

These four students won top honors from among 131 participants from 46 schools at the competition. They will form the state team that will represent Minnesota and travel to Chicago in mid-June to compete against teams from throughout the United States in the national MATHCOUNTS competition. The MATHCOUNTS program pays for the students and coach to travel to Chicago. Accompanying the students, as their coach, will be Jeanette Polanski, math teacher at Field Community School, Minneapolis, who earned the right to coach the national competitors because her students were the top-scoring team.

Participants won regional competitions in February in which 940 students and 163 schools participated to qualify for the state competition.

The top 10 teams at the state meet were:

1. Field Community School, Minneapolis
2. Becker Middle School, Becker
3. Kellogg Middle School, Rochester
4. Moorhead Junior High School, Moorhead
5. Woodbury Junior High School, Woodbury
6. Eden Prairie Central Middle School, Eden Prairie
7. Capitol Hill Magnet School, St. Paul
8. St. Paul Academy & Summit School, St. Paul
9. South Junior High School, St. Cloud
10. BOLD Junior High School, Bird Island

Note: Field is an all-girl team. This is the first time in the 19 years of the competition that a female team has won top honors. The boy/girl ratio this year was 37 girls or 28%, up a few points from last year.

Congratulations to all the participants and their coaches.

Mark Your Calendar

	<u>2002</u>	
4/21 – 4/24		NCTM Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada
4/26		World's Largest Math Event 8, "Entertaining Mathematics"
6/20 – 6/22		NCTM Regional Leadership Conference, Minneapolis
10/18		MCTM Fall Conference, Eastview High School, Apple Valley
	<u>2003</u>	
4/10 – 4/12		NCTM Annual Meeting, San Antonio, Texas
4/25 – 4/26		MCTM Spring Conference, DECC, Duluth MN
	<u>2004</u>	
4/22 – 4/24		NCTM Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
11/11 – 11/13		NCTM Regional Conference, Minneapolis Convention Center

People in the News

The first education winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award were announced in December 2001. The recipients were the University of Wisconsin-Stout and school districts Pearl River in New York and Chugach in Anchorage, Alaska. The Chugach district uses the K-4 RightStart Mathematics Program written by MCTM member, Joan A. Cotter.

Sue Roosenraad from Northfield was interviewed in the *Dialogues* section of the April 2002 *NCTM News Bulletin*.

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P.O. Box 120418
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www.mctm.org

Larry Luck, President
763-784-0084 – H
larryluck@aol.com

Arnie Cutler, Executive Director
612-626-8326 – W
651-631-2136 – H
cutler@tc.umn.edu

Pam Brethorst, Editor
651-690-9075 – H
pambrethorst@aol.com

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