

Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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President's Message

I am pleased to begin my term as president while there are so many exciting things going on in math education in Alberta. The MCATA executive is a committed group of educators who are passionate about math education. I am proud to have the opportunity to work with them.

I have been an educator for 23 years. During most of that time, I was a secondary math teacher. I am currently an instructional processes consultant with my district. I spent the past two-and-a-half years on secondment to the Alberta Assessment Consortium, which gave me the opportunity to travel the province and meet math teachers from all across Alberta. We conducted a research study into formative assessment and high school math.

I am looking forward to our joint conference next October with the science council. We have booked a math keynote speaker whom I admire greatly—Steven Strogatz. Chris Hadfield will provide the other keynote at that conference. An organizing committee made up of members of both councils is well along in the planning stages of this joint endeavour. Watch for upcoming details about registration opening.

One of my goals as president of MCATA is to continue to build relationships among K–12 teachers, Alberta Education, and postsecondary educators. We are in the midst of a curricular redesign, and many voices need to be heard. These are exciting times.

John Scammell

Request for Lesson Plans

Have you created one of those amazing cross-curricular lesson plans that worked so well you wish you could share it with more teachers? Maybe you haven't, but have always wanted the excuse to try. Well, now you have it.

For upcoming issues of *delta-K*, we are looking for cross-curricular lesson plans for kindergarten to Grade 12 that include a significant math component. Recognizing that a lot of work goes into creating a project like this, we would like to share these ready-to-go resources so that we and students can benefit from the brain power and effort of multiple teachers. We are looking for submissions by April 30. If timing is an issue, or for any other questions, please contact Lorelei Boschman (*delta-K* editor) at lboschman@mhc.ab.ca.

Friends of MCATA

Cheryl Schaub and Dean Walls were recognized as Friends of MCATA at the annual conference. Both of them have made contributions in support of MCATA's mission, "Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics" in our province.

From the Editor's Laptop

If you run into Gladys Sterenberg in the near future, make sure to give her a big thank-you for the many hours she has put into shaping our publication, *delta-K*, into a professional resource, as well as being instrumental in the publication of *Selected Writings from the Journal of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association: Celebrating 50 Years (1962–2012)* of *delta-K*. She is retiring from the editor's position after many years of appreciated service.

In the last issue of this newsletter, I mentioned Marj Farris's upcoming retirement from the position of president. Thank you, Marj, for your work in this position, and with your move to the position of past president, thank you for the continuing expertise you provide to keep us on track and things running smoothly.

We welcome a new member to the executive, Lorelei Boschman. Her bio can be found in "New to the MCATA Executive." After you read a bit about her, start your lesson planning to help her continue the great tradition that Gladys has burnished into the *delta-K* we know and love.

And finally, we welcome John Scammel to the position of president. You may remember that he joined us two years ago while he was on a secondment to the Alberta Assessment Consortium, where he was researching the effects of formative assessment on completion rates in mathematics. Combine this with 17 years of teaching, and consultant work for Edmonton Public Schools, and we have a picture of leadership in mathematics that is sure to fit the role of president of MCATA.

So the next time you run into any of these people, pass on the thank-yous for the passion and hours that they put into these positions.

Thank you!

Karen Bouwman

Your Next Reading Project Is Ready for Purchase

We are excited to announce the completion of *Selected Writings from the Journal of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association: Celebrating 50 Years (1962–2012)* of *delta-K*.

The teaching and learning of mathematics in Alberta has a long and storied history. An integral part of the past 50 years (1962–2012) of this history has been *delta-K: Journal of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association*. This new book, which presents ten memorable articles from each of the past five decades—that is, 50 articles from the past 50 years of the journal—provides an opportunity to share this rich history with a wide range of people interested in the teaching and learning of mathematics and mathematics education. Each decade begins with an introduction that provides historical context and concludes with a commentary from a prominent member of the Alberta mathematics education community. As a result, this monograph provides a historical account as well as a contemporary view of many of the trends and issues in the teaching and learning of mathematics. This volume is meant to serve as a resource for a variety of people, including teachers of mathematics, mathematics teacher educators, mathematics education researchers, historians, and undergraduate and graduate students. Most important, this volume is a celebratory retrospective of the work of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

More information on this book and how you can get your copy can be found at mathteachers.ab.ca under Publications.

2015 PEC election
MARCH 23

GET READY TO VOTE

If you want to be a part of history, you need to have an online ATA account.

Having one is absolutely necessary to vote in the first ever ATA election to be conducted 100% online. If you don't already have an account with us, you will need your teaching certificate number to create one.

For more information visit the **Information On** section of our homepage at www.teachers.ab.ca.

CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY!

The Alberta Teachers' Association

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Notes from the MCATA Executive

September Executive Meeting Summary

Meetings were held on September 5 and 6, 2014, at Barnett House, with the majority of the meetings focused on the fall symposium and the October conference. Some revisions were made and approved for the *Handbook of Duties and Procedures*. The agenda included discussion about location for the 2016 conference, with Daryl Chichak and Alicia Burdess as cochairs for this conference. An advertisement will be put in the *ATA News* for an event registrar for the conference/symposia registration process for the 2015 year. Reports were received from representatives who attended ARA in May and ATA Summer Conference in August. Three members of the executive planned to present at the Beginning Teachers' Conference (BTC) in Edmonton and one member planned to attend the BTC in Calgary. The budget for 2014–15 was determined for presentation at the annual general meeting at the conference in October.

December Executive Meeting Summary

John Scammell, MCATA's president, chaired his first meeting in his new position and consulted with Marj Farris, past president, as needed. Tancy Lazar, vice president of publications, and Donna Chanasyk, secretary, returned to the executive following their acclamation in the spring election of 2014. New Canadian anti-spam legislation (CASL) has implications for organizations like MCATA. Proper disclaimers must accompany any commercial messages, and John will take on the role of CASL compliance officer to ensure that MCATA e-mails are in compliance. The agenda included debriefings on the symposium and conference that were held in October. MCATA has agreed to support the iTunes Project and the Alberta Assessment Consortium Collaborative Partnership. A \$500 grant was approved for a group of teachers to help them with a professional development opportunity. Considerable time was spent in planning the 2015 joint conference with the Science Council. There was a brief discussion about the conferences in 2016 and 2017.

Table officers will meet in January and May, and the executive will meet in May.

MCATA Conference

The next conference is "Geeks Unite," a joint conference with the Science Council. It will take place in Edmonton on October 23 and 24, 2015, at the Fantasyland Hotel. The keynote speakers are Steven Stratz and Chris Hadfield.

New to the MCATA Executive

Lorelei Boschman (BEd, MEd) is pleased to accept the position of editor of *delta-K*, MCATA's journal. Lorelei graduated with her BEd from the University of Lethbridge in 1987 and completed her MEd in 1997, also through the University of Lethbridge. After teaching one year at a K–8 school in Barons, Alberta, she accepted a full time mathematics teaching position at Medicine Hat High School, in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where she taught for the next 21 years, teaching Grades 9–12 and in all mathematics streams. In 2008, she took a contractual position with Medicine Hat College to teach numeracy and scientific literacy courses and began working in the education degree program there in 2010, when she became a full-time instructor in the education department. Along with teaching first- and second-year education and math/science literacy courses, she also teaches the curriculum and instruction course for mathematics for the degree program. As a faculty member at Medicine Hat College, she is involved in numerous professional growth opportunities and planning groups, from local to international. She also collaborates extensively in her community with the education students for the practicums and service learning hours they participate in.

Lorelei is married and has a blended family of 7 children aged 14 to 23. She has coauthored two books: *The Big Cook*, which sold over 48,000 copies, and *The Big Cook 2*, which has currently sold over 8,000 copies. This adventure has brought her new knowledge about publishing, marketing and media in general. She loves to travel and do outdoor activities with her husband and children.

She is looking forward to sharing many practical and thought-provoking articles and classroom-based ideas with you through *delta-K* and looks forward to your submissions and ideas for future issues. Math education is in a changing environment, and Lorelei wants to continue in the tradition of professional articles and practical ideas for the math educator.



TERM Meetings



Teachers of Mathematics in the Edmonton Region (TERM) will meet next on March 2 and May 11. The meetings are at 5 PM at Paul Kane High School, in St Albert. For more information, contact Donna Chanasyk at donnajc@telus.net.

Awards

Dr Arthur Jorgenson Chair Award Recipient

Sadly, due to lack of applicants, there is no recipient this year. Please encourage your student teachers to apply!

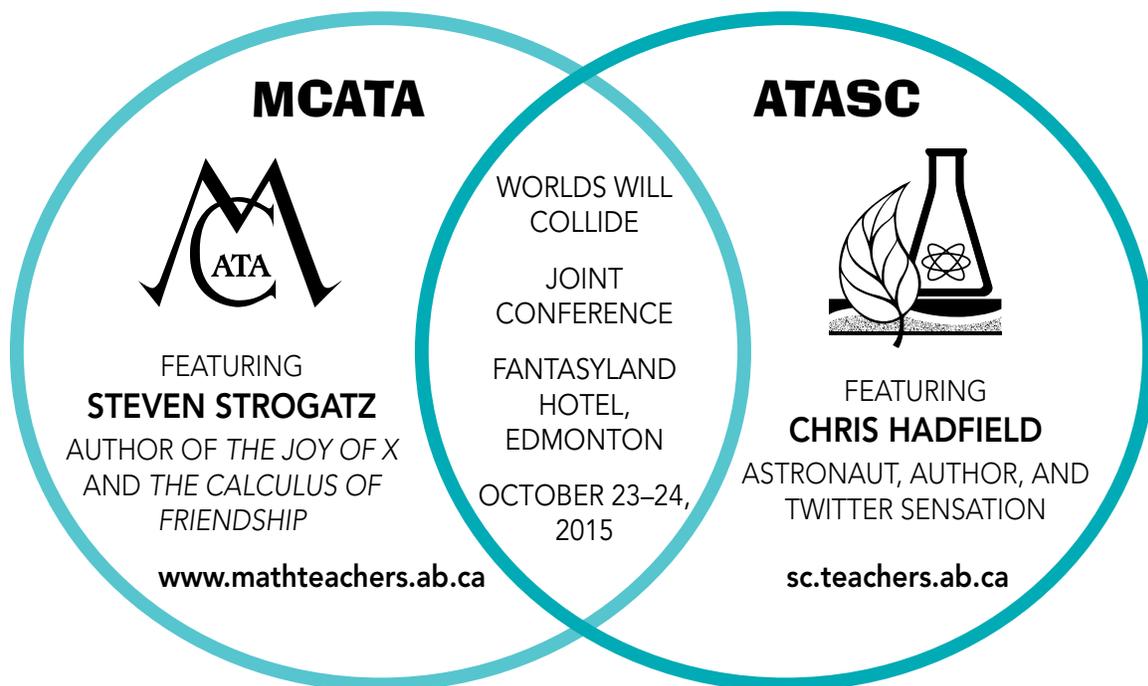
Math Educator of the Year

We firmly believe that someone's name should be listed here, but because we received no nominations, we have to leave this space blank. We are looking for mathematics leaders in both elementary and high school. Please see the included nomination form, and nominate a colleague for this year.

ATA Educational Trust Specialist Council Grant

A grant of \$400 is available to teachers to attend a specialist council annual conference who apply by September 30 each year. This year the following teachers received the grant to attend the 2014 or 2015 MCATA conference: Cathy Campbell, Mario Doroshenko, Caroline Elcid, Jennifer Hollman, Stephanie Keyowski, Dolph Shaw, Candice Shogren and Tamara Wilcox. Congratulations to all the recipients!

“GEEKS UNITE”



FINE PRINT: WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL SELL OUT. REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. REGISTRATION LINKS ARE ON BOTH COUNCILS' WEBSITES.

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