

A Tribute to Joan Worth

Arthur Jorgensen

Dr. Arthur Jorgensen is presently working for the Ministry of Education, Kingston, Jamaica.



Dr. Joan Worth is the second recipient of the Mathematics Educator of the Year Award, which is awarded annually by the Mathematics Council of The Alberta Teachers' Association (MCATA).

Joan's interest and involvement in mathematics education spans a number of years in this province. In fact, she has been affectionately labeled the "Mother of Mathematics Education in Alberta" because of her significant contribution.

Joan is currently a professor in the Department of Elementary Education at the University of Alberta, where she specializes in undergraduate and graduate mathematics education. Before assuming responsibilities at the university, Joan had a wide variety of experiences and taught all subjects at several elementary schools in Alberta. Joan has taken an active interest in the MCATA since its inception, serving in a number of key executive positions. Although, from time to time, she has not been an active member of the board, she

willingly comes back when her talents are required. Her most recent significant contribution to MCATA was in serving as conference director for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Name of Site meeting held in Edmonton, October 16-18, 1986. This conference will go down in history as being one of the best ever held in the province.

Throughout the years, Joan has also taken an active role in the affairs of the NCTM, where once again she has served admirably in a variety of roles. Her special interest recently has been the NCTM's Agenda for Action, particularly the recommendations dealing with problem solving and the use of computers and calculators in elementary mathematics instruction.

Because of her extensive knowledge of elementary mathematics education, Joan's expertise as a conference speaker is widely sought both nationally and internationally.

Joan is also an author. She has written numerous articles for The Arithmetic Teacher and various MCATA publications. Currently, Joan is working with the Addison Wesley Publishing Company as coauthor of its new elementary mathematics textbook series.

The following poem, I believe, accurately reflects Joan's greatness. She has lived its message.

True Greatness

Women are as great as the dreams they dream
 As great as the love they bear;
As great as the values they redeem,
 As the happiness they share.
Women are as great as the thoughts they think
 As the worth they have attained;
As the fountain at which their spirits drink,
 As the insights they have gained.
Women are as great as the truth they speak
 As great as the help they give;
As great as the destiny they seek,
 As great as the lives they live.