

# MCATA Executive in Action

*Klaus Puhlmann*

The pictures below depict your MCATA executive members during their meeting September 8–9. Executive members are primarily classroom teachers but also include representatives from Alberta Learning, the Faculty of Education, the Department of Mathematics, the ATA staff, the Provincial Executive Council and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (Canadian director). Executive meetings are always held Friday evening and all-day Saturday. Often, subcommittees continue until late Saturday evening following the executive meeting. Addressing the many pertinent issues surrounding the teaching and learning of mathematics is always the main focus of business. As a long-term goal the executive continues its strong focus on our mission, “Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics.”

*Note:* Executive members Graham Keogh, Red Deer County, vice president, NCTM representative and conference director; Donna Chanasyk, Edmonton, secretary; Daryl Chichak, Edmonton, membership director; Lorraine Taylor, Lethbridge, director; Carol Henderson, PEC liaison; and Michael Fulton, Fort Qu’Appelle, Saskatchewan, NCTM Canadian director, are not shown.

*Seven new members join the executive! (l-r) Shauna Boyce, Edmonton, Alberta Learning representative; Len Bonifacio, Edmonton, conference director; Evelyn Sawicki, Calgary, director; Robert Wong, Edmonton, webmaster; Helen McIntyre, High River, director; Richard Kopan, Calgary, director; Indy Lagu, Calgary, mathematics representative.*



## About the New Executive Members



*(l-r) Len Bonifacio, Edmonton, director; Rick Johnson, St. Albert, director.*

**Len Bonifacio** has been a teacher with Edmonton Catholic Schools for 25 years, including a secondment term at the Learner Assessment Branch. He is coordinator of mathematics and science at Holy Trinity High School.

**Shauna Boyce** has been a high school mathematics teacher at Spruce Grove Composite High School since 1990, where she also headed the mathematics department from 1995 to 1998. She has worked on various committees for Alberta Learning and has written support materials for numerous school boards and private businesses. In September 1998, she accepted a secondment position with Alberta Learning to work with the diploma examinations for Mathematics 33 and Applied Mathematics 30. Shauna is the examination manager for these courses and our Alberta Learning representative.

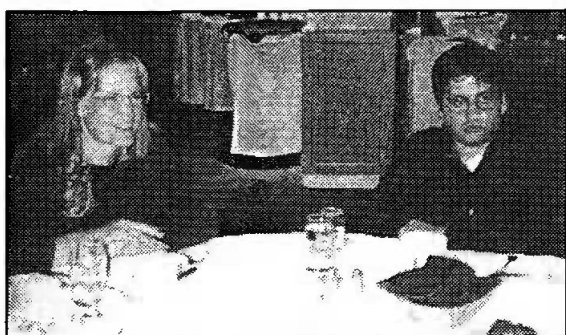
**Richard Kopan** served on the executive in the past and just couldn't stay away. He retired from the Calgary Board of Education in June 1997. Richard recently completed a three-year term on the board of directors of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. He is the Alberta representative for Spectrum Educational Supplies.

**Indy Lagu** received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Calgary in 1996 and has since worked at Mount Royal College, Calgary. He is also education coordinator for the Calgary site of the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS).

**Helen McIntyre** spent many years teaching for Foothills School Division No. 38. During the 1999–2000 school year, she had the unique opportunity to work as the junior high mathematics professional development coordinator for the Calgary Regional Consortium. This year, she has embarked on a new challenge as AISI project consultant for secondary mathematics for Rocky View School Division No. 41.

**Evelyn Sawicki** is mathematics supervisor for the Calgary RCSSD No. 1. Her goals as a mathematics educator and a MCATA member are to support the teaching and learning of the prescribed program of studies and to promote excellence in mathematics education for all students.

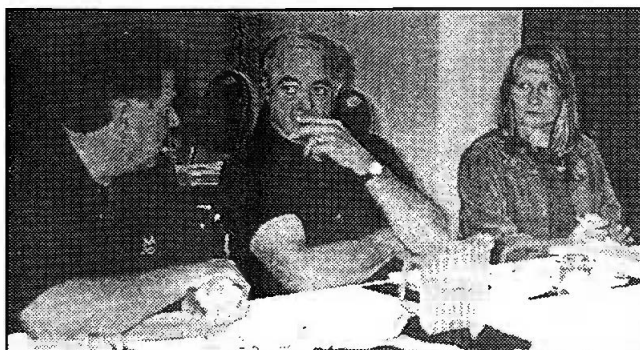
**Robert Wong** teaches at Vernon Barford Junior High School in Edmonton. He served on the Gauss Contest committee for nine years and on the Edmonton Junior High Math Contest committee for eleven years. Robert has looked after the school website since 1996 and coauthored a unit on number patterns for *The Learning Equation 7*.



*(l-r) Sandra Unrau, Calgary, president; Indy Lagu, Calgary, mathematics representative*



*(l-r) Dale Burnett, Lethbridge, Faculty of Education representative; Richard Kopan, Calgary, director*



*(l-r) Doug Weisbeck, St. Albert, treasurer; David Jeary, ATA staff advisor; Sandra Unrau, Calgary, president*



*(l-r) Cynthia Ballheim, Calgary, past president and newsletter editor; Elaine Manzer, Peace River, vice president*

*(l-r) Robert Wong, Edmonton, webmaster; Doug Weisbeck, St. Albert, treasurer; Klaus Puhmann, Edson, delta-K editor*



# MCATA 2000 Annual Conference

## Message from the Conference Chair

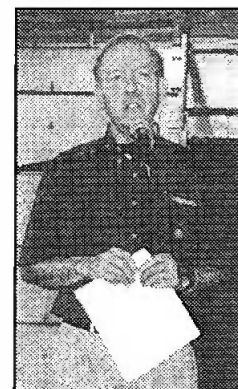
The 2000 annual conference, "World Mathematics Year 2000," was held October 27–28 at the Red Deer Capri Centre. Four hundred and twenty registrants took the opportunity to mix with colleagues, share ideas, take in the sessions and visit the exhibits.

On Thursday, October 26, about 100 delegates attended the annual fall symposium sponsored by MCATA and Alberta Learning. The symposium featured the Applied Math program, with Alberta educators providing their experiences at implementing the course. Alberta Learning brought us up to date on the acceptance of Applied Math 30 at the postsecondary level. Zalman Usiskin discussed the possibilities of a universal math curriculum.

Conference delegates began arriving Thursday evening. Friday morning they started to take in sessions, 65 of which were offered over the two days. The majority of sessions were offered on site, with the technology sessions at Notre Dame High School and a practical elementary session at Kerrywood Nature Centre. Due to the implementation of the Western Canadian Protocol at the Grade 12 level, the conference included a large proportion of high school math teachers and sessions. These teachers especially enjoyed sharing ideas about course content, textbooks, implementation, resources and so on. In many sessions, presenters encouraged active participation and sharing with the delegates, which was much appreciated.

Friday's luncheon featured Zalman Usiskin, University of Chicago, talking about educating the public about school mathematics. At the luncheon, the Math Educator of the Year Award was presented to Cathy McCabe, Len Bonifacio, Shauna Boyce and Evan Fleetwood. Dale Karpluk, Don Ross, Craig Loewen, Steve Carlyle, John Percevault and Jolene Keogh were honored as friends of MCATA.

Friday evening, delegates were offered a choice of movies for math movie night, and about 100 delegates participated in this social event. Saturday's breakfast featured guest speaker David Pimm, University of Alberta. Delegates continued to take in sessions until the general closing session with Ted Lewis, University of Alberta. Because of the generous support of our many displayers, about 30 door prizes were given away as a conference finale.



*Graham Keogh*

*Graham Keogh*



*Zalman Usiskin,  
keynote speaker,  
"Educating the Public  
About School  
Mathematics."*

## A Pictorial Potpourri of the 2000 MCATA Conference



*An attentive audience listening to Zalman Usiskin.*



Conference Planning Committee (l-r) Elaine Manzer, Cynthia Ballheim; (middle) Patricia Chichak, Sandra Unrau, Graham Keogh; (back) Daryl Chichak in costume promoting the 2001 Conference, "A Math Odyssey," and Rick Johnson.



Terry Kaminski conducting a workshop on the Addison-Wesley Applied Mathematics 10.



Scott Carlson and Indy Lagu (not in picture) presented the "Normal Is in the Die of the Beholder" workshop.



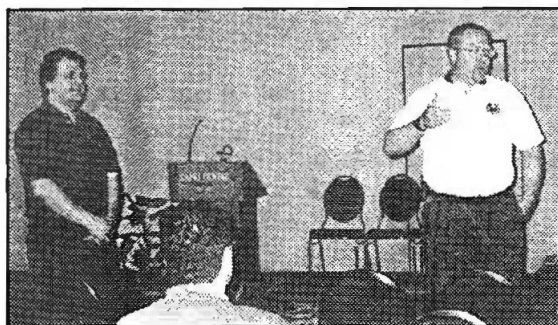
Cynthia Ballheim spoke about how Mathpower 12 students could approach diploma exams.



Enzo Timoteo led the "Math in Motion - Base 10 Blocks, Decimals" workshop.



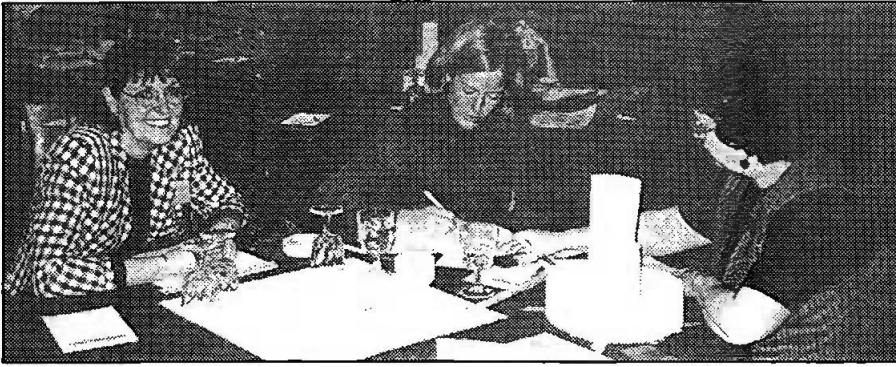
Evelyn Sawicki revisited the Alberta diagnostic math program.



Len Arden (l) and Holt Zaugg (r) talked about portfolios for senior high math.



Jack LeSage working with teachers in "Linking Geoboards at the Junior High Level."



*(l-r) Ellen Radomski, Jennifer Burke and Jacqueline Willette enjoyed the "Michelangelo at Work" workshop.*



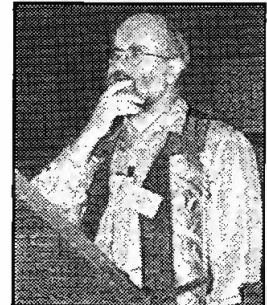
*Elaine Simmt asked, "What do broccoli, Cantor's set and a math class in flu season all have in common?"*



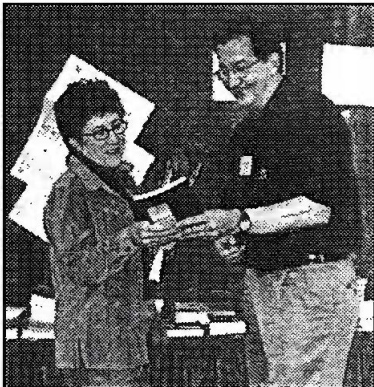
*Ernie Klassen presented "Numero—Having Fun with Numbers."*



*Carol Hellman and Paula Bruner (not in picture) conducted the workshop, "Using Illustrative Examples to Inform Mathematics Instruction."*



*David Pimm, keynote speaker, "Seeing, Saying and Writing: Where does the Mathematics Lie?"*



*Dale Burnett, MCATA executive member, busy with customer Carol Klassen at the MCATA desk in the display area.*



*Carol Henderson (c), PEC liaison, discusses the ATA policy on provincial achievement tests with teachers.*



*(l-r) Janette Pethick, Susan Galloway and Pat Lore (teachers with Edmonton Public Schools) enjoyed Jane Felling's session on "Beyond" Boxcars and One-Eyed Jacks.*



*Len Bonifacio presented a Pure Math 30 session on statistics, perms and combinations.*



*Doug Knight presented a session on the classroom assessment toolkit for ICT.*



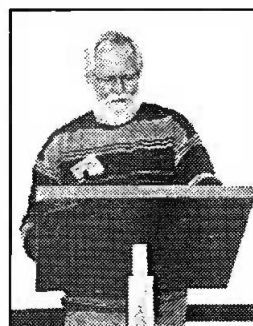
*Richard Kopan worked with teachers in "Geometry Tools to Enhance the Classroom, Grades 7-9."*



*Sandra Unrau (l), MCATA president, presents a Friends of MCATA certificate to Jolene Keogh. Other Friends of MCATA Dale Karpluk, Steve Carlyle, Don Ross, John Percevault and Craig Loewen were not present.*



*Sandra Unrau (l) presents Math Educator of the Year Awards to (l-r) Evan Fleetwood, assistant principal, Ardrossan Junior/Senior High School; Shauna Boyce, Alberta Learning representative; Cathy McCabe, high school math consultant, Edmonton Public Schools; and Len Bonifacio, coordinator of mathematics and science, Holy Trinity High School, Edmonton.*



*Ted Lewis, closing keynote speaker, "Math Fairs—A Story of Successful Interaction Between Schools and University Mathematics and Science Departments."*



*Promoting our next conference: "A Math Odyssey," October 26-28, 2001, in Edmonton.*