

MCATA Executive in Action

Klaus Puhmann

The pictures below depict your MCATA executive members during their meeting on September 14–15, 2001.

It is important that you know your executive members so the working relationship between general members and the executive can be strengthened. The 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).

The executive works diligently on behalf of members and in support of MCATA's mission: "Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics." Executive meetings are held on Friday evening and all day Saturday. Often, subcommittees continue until late Saturday evening following the executive meeting. Other subcommittees meet outside the executive meeting weekends, using e-mail, teleconferencing and face-to-face meetings to communicate.

On behalf of the executive, I invite you to contact any of the executive members to discuss how you

can get involved on the executive or become more active in fulfilling our mission.

New Executive Member

Deanna Shostak taught mathematics to adults who were academic upgrading at Alberta College in Edmonton. She was seconded to Alberta Learning in September 2000 as a Pure and Applied Mathematics 30 examiner. As the new Alberta Learning representative on MCATA, she is looking forward to being involved with the Council.

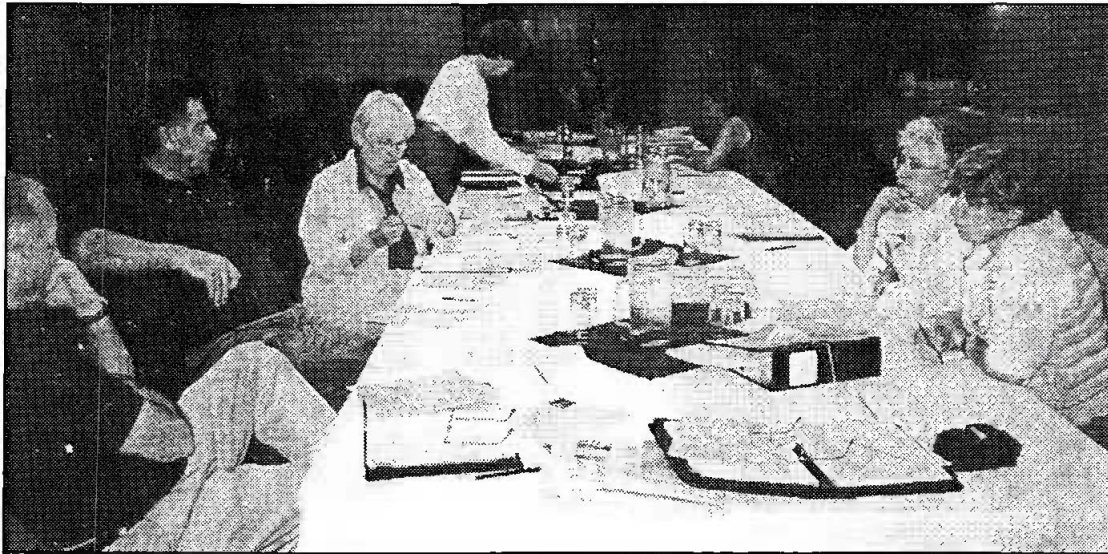


Deanna Shostak

Executive Members at Work



(l-r) Lorraine Taylor, Lethbridge, director; Elaine Manzer, Peace River, vice president; Donna Chanasyk, Edmonton, secretary; Carol Henderson, Calgary, PEC liaison; Sandra Unrau, Calgary, president; Len Bonifacio, Edmonton, director and 2001 conference codirector; Deanna Shostak, Edmonton, Alberta Learning representative



(l-r) David Jeary, Calgary, ATA staff advisor; Doug Weisbeck, St. Albert, treasurer; Helen McIntyre, High River, vice president, 2002 conference codirector and NCTM representative; Carol Henderson, Calgary, PEC liaison; Cynthia Ballheim, Calgary, past president, 2001 conference codirector and 2003 conference director; Evelyn Sawicki, Calgary, director



(l-r) Robert Wong, Edmonton, webmaster; Dale Burnett, Lethbridge, Faculty of Education representative; Indy Lagu, Calgary, mathematics representative

(l-r) Daryl Chichak, Edmonton, membership director; Helen McIntyre, High River, vice president, 2002 conference codirector and NCTM representative; Doug Weisbeck, St. Albert, treasurer



MCATA 2001 Annual Conference

Message from the Conference Codirectors



The 2001 MCATA annual conference, "2001: A Math Odyssey," was held on October 25–27 at the Fantasyland Hotel in West Edmonton Mall. Five hundred and sixty registrants took in sessions, shared ideas, visited the display area and mixed with colleagues.

On Thursday, October 25, delegates attended the fall symposium cosponsored by Alberta Learning and MCATA. The symposium featured panel discussions from postsecondary representatives on preparing mathematics teachers, updates from an Alberta Learning panel and an address from David McKillop, an assessment and teacher-preparation specialist with the Nova Scotia Department of Education, on the qualities of "The Ideal Math Teacher."

Registration began on Thursday evening and was accompanied by a wine and cheese social. Sessions began at 9:00 a.m. on Friday. Most of the sessions were held at the hotel's conference centre, with off-site technology sessions taking place at the nearby St. Francis Xavier High School. The conference featured many in-depth, two-hour sessions and more sessions for Divisions I and II. Division III teachers were well represented, and Division IV teachers enjoyed sharing information about implementing the Applied Mathematics program. Teachers mentioned that they especially enjoyed the workshop-style sessions.

Friday's luncheon featured David McKillop, who spoke on "Teaching Mathematics for Understanding: The Greatest Gift You Can Give Your Students" and entertained the audience on the piano as part of his presentation. MCATA awards were then presented (see below).

Saturday's breakfast was to feature keynote speaker Jere Confrey, professor of mathematics education at the University of Texas-Austin, but unfortunately she was not able to attend. Sessions continued Saturday morning and early afternoon. The closing session featured Rick Mrazek of the University of Lethbridge, who spoke on math relevancy and linkages. The conference concluded with the presentation of about 100 door prizes to delegates. Thanks to all who donated these items.

The 2002 MCATA annual conference will be held October 31–November 2, 2002, in Canmore.

Cynthia Ballheim and Len Bonifacio

Mathematics Educator of the Year Award

The Mathematics Educator of the Year Award is presented to a person who has demonstrated leadership in encouraging the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics in Alberta. The recipient may be a K–12 classroom teacher or anyone who has made exceptional contributions to the professional development of teachers at the school, local, provincial or national level.

The 2001 Mathematics Educator of the Year Award recipient is Roxanne Trouth, mathematics department head at Fort Saskatchewan Composite High School.



Sandra Unrau (r), MCATA president, presents the Mathematics Educator of the Year Award to Roxanne Trouth (l).

Friends of MCATA Award

The Friends of MCATA Award recognizes those who have given MCATA faithful and dedicated service in a variety of ways throughout the years. These people have given generously of their time, effort and expertise. Friends of MCATA receive a certificate, a pin and an acknowledgment of their MCATA involvement in the conference program, in the *Mathematics Council Newsletter* and on the website (www.mathteachers.ab.ca).

The 2001 Friends of MCATA Award recipients are Janis Kristjansson, Calgary Board of Education; Carol Klass, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Sharon Gach, Elk Island Public Schools; Betty-Ann Beaudry, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Joanne Stepney, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Dan Forest, Edmonton Catholic Schools; Darryl Smith, Edmonton Catholic Schools; and Martin Lewicki, Edmonton Catholic Schools.



Cynthia Ballheim (far left), MCATA past president, and Sandra Unrau (far right), MCATA president, present the Friends of MCATA Award to (l-r) Janis Kristjansson, Carol Klass, Sharon Gach and Betty-Ann Beaudry.

Dr. Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award

The Dr. Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award is presented to an education student in Alberta to encourage him or her to pursue and commit to mathematics education. The award consists of a one-year term on the MCATA executive, with all expenses (meals, travel and accommodation) paid to attend executive meetings and the annual mathematics conference. The award also provides one-year memberships to MCATA and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).



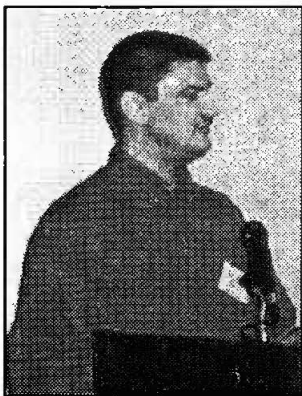
Art Jorgensen (l), after whom the Dr. Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award is named, is recognized by Klaus Puhmann (r) on behalf of the MCATA executive.

Pictorial Potpourri

David McKillop, mathematics evaluation consultant with the Nova Scotia Department of Education and keynote speaker at Friday's luncheon, makes his point with words and music.



Michael Fulton conducts a workshop on "Math Is a Snap with Polydron."



Dave Wagner explores "Investigative Projects in Pure Mathematics" with teachers.

"Technology and Learning Activities for Fractions and Integers," a workshop with Joanne Adomeit.



Graham Keogh presents on "Exploring Calculus Graphically."



Martina Schmidt holds a workshop on "Add Torque to Your Math Program."



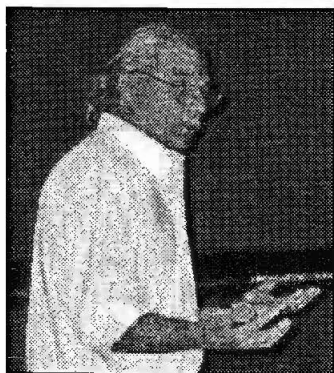
Werner Liedtke focuses on "Number Sense—The Key to Numeracy."



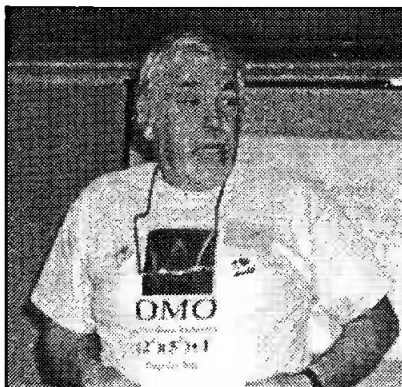
Jodie Mackie conducts a workshop titled "If Math Is a Game, Here Are the Rules!"



(l-r) Jon Dewalt, Tom Hasenack, Jeff Semenchuk and Shari Plouffe gain hands-on experience in building a mousetrap car.



Michael Stone involves participants in "Dissecting Pythagoras' Theorem."



Jack LeSage makes a presentation on "Nexus: The Prep 10 Resource."



Jack Edwards presents "Normal and Binomial Distributions and Their Associated Confidence Intervals."

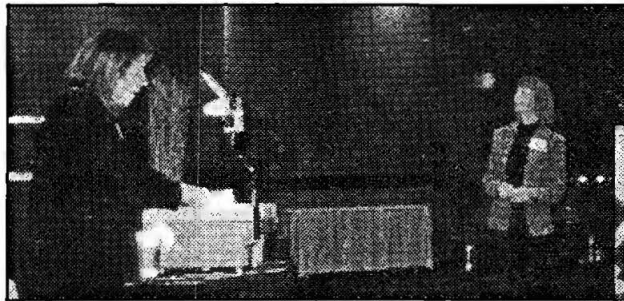
Bryan Quinn and Marie Hauk engage teachers in a workshop on "Chance and Choice."



Betty Morris conducts a workshop on "Connecting Mathematics and Literature."



Dale Burnett relates his experiences with the Australian Mathematics Recovery Program.

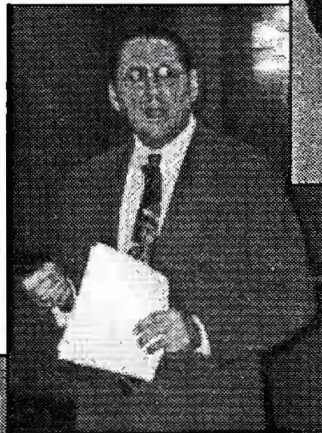


Elizabeth Donovan (l) and Paula Bruner (r) deal with "Misconceptions and the Big Ideas About Fractions."



Jason Krause and Tania Terenta, student teachers from the University of Calgary, present "Demystifying Arithmetic Word Problems: Teaching for Understanding."

Rick Mrazek delivers his closing keynote address, "Making Sense of Relevance."



Ron Zukowski talks about "Conics and Transformations in Pure Math 30."



Jan Lockley (centre) and two workshop participants deal with "Concept Development Using Calculators."