From the Editor

I enjoyed reading NCTM president Glenda Lappan's message in the *NCTM News Bulletin*, volume 35, where she outlines the need for excellent teaching materials in the area of mathematics. However, in summary, she states that materials alone cannot make a mathematics program. The real key to success is the teachers' willingness to increase the effectiveness of the material by spending a significant amount of time planning the lessons, listening carefully to what students are saying, analyzing what they are learning, and then adjusting the mathematical tasks and the questions asked. In other words, well-trained and committed teachers, along with excellent materials can be a real boost to students' learning.

I hope that teachers are finding the new materials being made available to be of excellent quality, and that they themselves are committed to helping every student reach a high level of excellence in mathematics as they begin another exciting and challenging year. I am sure they are! ▴

—*Art Jorgensen*

CHECK OUT THE NEW MCATA WEB SITE

WWW.MATHTEACHERS.AB.CA.

From the President's Pen

Welcome back to a new school year. September is a time for new beginnings—new shoes, new books, new calculators and, for many of us, a new curriculum. At the beginning of the calendar year, it is customary to make resolutions. Why not do that in September, too? Think about that small piece of mathematics that we share with our students and focus on how to do that in a more meaningful way.

We Albertans are lucky to have so many professional development activities at our fingertips that provide a never-ending feast of mathematical happenings:

1. The NCTM Regional in October
2. Numerous opportunities afforded to us by Alberta Education to mark examinations and to become involved in developing curricular materials
3. The many workshops and committee involvements made available by our own local boards

Our students are the vitamins that help to keep us robust and mathematically "young at heart." Technology is a case in point. We learn along with our students as they fearlessly push buttons, change modes and adjust their windows with lightening speed. Their goal is simply to see what will happen. Successive iterations are definitely a part of this repertoire. Similarly our students are not afraid to ask each other for help. At many times during the coming months, Alberta's phone lines will be filled with their mathematical chatter. In today's times, collaboration is a necessity and not just an option. We must all say yes to professional development as one of our new school year resolutions. Make yours today! ▴

—*Cynthia Ballheim*

Math Leadership Symposium

The 12th semiannual math leadership symposium will be held October 22, 1998, at the Village Park Inn in Calgary. This symposium is a great opportunity for mathematics leaders to come together to network and receive professional development and information regarding hot topics in the province. The agenda is packed with interesting and exciting issues. This is a great start to the Canadian Regional Conference. Register with Shirley at 427-2939. ▲

—Betty Morris

Welcome New Director Lorraine Taylor

I was born and raised in Ponteix, Saskatchewan, a small French community. I began teaching in Regina at 19 years of age. After four years, I moved to Lethbridge with my husband, Brian. We have a 24-year-old son and a 22-year-old daughter.

While raising the kids, I volunteered in the community and became a very active member of the Bridge Alta Jaycees. I then attended the University of Lethbridge and graduated in 1984. I taught for many years in the immersion program at the elementary and middle school levels and in the last few years, I've been teaching math. Currently, I'm teaching math in the Grade 9 English program. I'm looking forward to serving as an MCATA director. ▲

—Lorraine Taylor

Fame and Fortune Are Yours

MCATA is looking for a unique catchy mathematical phrase and/or design to be used on promotional items, such as mugs, cups, T-shirts and pencils.

Rules

- The phrase and/or design must be simple and limited to two lines.
- Only original work is to be submitted.
- All entries should include the name of one famous mathematics educator.
- Submissions must be on 8 ½-by–11-inch white paper.

Prizes

Winning entries will receive $100.

Deadline

Submit by December 15, 1998, to Betty Morris, 9807 106 Street, Edmonton T5K 1C2.

Names of mathematics educators who submit entries will be included in a future newsletter. We are looking forward to many interesting entries. Please encourage participation. Contact Betty Morris at 441-6104, morrisb@ecs.edmonton.ab.ca. ▲

Membership

As of October 1, 1998, our membership was 559. Please renew your membership when you receive your renewal notice. Three prizes are awarded every three months: first: MCATA conference registration; second: a one-year MCATA membership; and third: a $25 NCTM gift certificate to be redeemed through MCATA.

—Daryl M. J. Chichak

Conferences

NCTM Annual Conference

The 1999 NCTM annual conference will be held in the great city of San Francisco April 22–24.

NCTM Canadian Regional Conference October 23–24, 1998 Palliser Hotel/Calgary Convention Centre, Calgary

This year's program offers a wealth of sessions to support classroom activities and mathematics learning. A casino is planned for Friday night. Plan to be there, and register now to avoid long lineups and disappointments. Call 1-800-235-7566 to register.

—George Ditto

"Mathematics in Harmony with the New Millennium"

Join mathematics teachers from Alberta and the rest of the West for the annual MCATA conference in Jasper, October 21–23, 1999. Bring the family—conference accommodations at Jasper Park Lodge are reasonably priced. Enjoy the location and sessions on Technology, Western Canadian Protocol on Mathematics, and Mathematics for the New Millennium. The Annual Mathematics Symposium will be held October 21 at the Lodge. For further information, contact a conference committee member: Klaus Puhlmann (klaupuhl@gyrd.ab.ca), Betty Morris (morrisb@ecs.edmonton.ab.ca), Cynthia Ballheim (ballheimcj@aol.com), Sandra Unrau (sunrau@cbe.ab.ca) or Elaine Manzer (manzere@prsd.ab.ca).

—Elaine Manzer

ATA Invitational Symposium

On May 22–23, the Alberta Teachers' Association sponsored an Invitational Symposium on Professionalism vs Managerialism. Each specialist council was invited to send a representative.

Professor Stephen J. Ball, professor of Sociology of Education, King's College, University of London, gave the two keynote addresses. He has researched the implications of government decisions relating to education markets, choice and equity in England, and has recently published the results of studies about the impact of these government decisions. Professor Ball's longitudinal study, which began in 1990, included 18 schools in four school districts.

Following Professor Ball's addresses, we worked within groups to discuss current issues in our school systems as well as solutions or recommendations to the issue of professionalism vs managerialism. Each group then shared its solutions/recommendations with the entire assembly and Professor Ball made some closing comments. ▲

—Florence Glanfield

NCTM Leadership Conference

I would like to thank MCATA for sponsoring me at the NCTM Leadership Conference in Vancouver on July 10–11, 1998. I had the opportunity to work and socialize with representatives from across Canada as well as the United States. The host province treated us royally throughout our stay; even the weather cooperated.

I now better understand the role of the NCTM, Conference Services Committee, Regional Services Committee and so on. I was also interested in the various projects undertaken by regions throughout North America. I'm eager to share with the South some of the great projects already occurring in our own province.

I would recommend next year's Leadership Conference to anyone who hasn't had the opportunity to attend in the past. ▲

—Lorraine Taylor

1998 NCTM Annual Conference

Two main things occur at the NCTM annual meeting that are directly related to its affiliated groups. At the regional caucus sessions on April 1, Regional Services Committee representatives generated discussion regarding resolutions to be presented to the delegate assembly the following morning. The only resolution presented to the assembly by an affiliated group was MCATA's. The resolution asked that NCTM adopt a policy that it would accept only materials that used metric rather than imperial measure. During the Canadian group meeting, we spent our entire time discussing the resolution. If time had allowed, we would have generated issues affecting mathematics education in Canada and our relationship with NCTM and created a resolution to present to the assembly.

On April 2, during the delegate assembly, Klaus Puhlmann spoke to the resolution on behalf of MCATA. The resolution was defeated; however, it did cause considerable discussion among all NCTM regions. This is very positive, and I have heard many supportive comments about pursuing the issue of the metric system further. I would suggest that MCATA continue to pursue this issue.

Thank you, MCATA, for allowing me to attend this meeting. ▴

—*Florence Glanfield*

May You Always Be so Lucky

May there always be work for
your hands to do
May your purse always hold a
coin or two
May the sun always shine on
your windowpane
May a rainbow be certain
to follow each rain
May the hand of a friend
always be near you
May God fill your heart with
gladness to cheer you

—*Anonymous*

1998 IPO

This summer Canadian high school students won one gold, one silver and two bronze medals at the 1998 International Mathematics Olympiad (IPO) in Taiwan. The Canadian team trained at the University of Calgary. Along with the Canadian team members, five Alberta students were invited to participate in the training camp. Members of the Canadian Mathematical Society and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Calgary organized the training camp. MCATA, as representatives of mathematics educators in Alberta, supported this venture.

There were six team members from across Canada: Adrian Birka, Lakeshore Catholic High School, Port Colborne, Ontario; Adrian Chan, Upper Canada College, Toronto, Ontario; Jimmy Chui, Brebeuf College School, Willowdale, Ontario; Mihaela Enachescu, Dawson College, Westmount, Quebec; Yin (Jessie) Lei, Vincent Massey Secondary School, Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Adrian Tang, Albert Campbell Collegiate Institute, Scarborough, Ontario.

The five Alberta students were Jamie Batuwantudawa, Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary; Frank Chen, Harry Ainlay High School, Edmonton; Gilbert Lee, McNally High School, Edmonton; Eddie Ng, Bishop Carroll High School, Calgary; and Brian Tsai, Western Canada High School, Calgary.

The Canadian team competed against students from 75 other countries in Taipei, Taiwan, July 10–21, 1998. The 1998 IMO contest was set by an international jury of mathematicians, one from each country, and was written on July 15 and 16. On each day of the contest, there are three questions to be solved with a time limit of four and one-half hours.

The MCATA executive, on behalf of the entire membership, has sent congratulations to each student.

For more information and to see the competition questions, visit the Canadian Mathematical Society's IMO Web site at http://camel.math.ca/IMO/. ▴

—*Florence Glanfield*