President's Message

Another year is upon us! Although we know that time does not really move faster as the years go on, it sure seems that way. I hope all of us used the Christmas break to recharge our batteries and are ready to face the challenges of the new year. January and February in Alberta tend to be the longest and coldest months of winter. In schools, we are dealing with students who don't spend as much time outside as usual and are starting to feel cooped up. High school students have finished writing either midterms or finals and diploma exams. Ideally, a new semester means getting to know a whole new set of students who are eager to tackle the rigours of learning fascinating new mathematical concepts.

The MCATA executive enjoyed meeting many of you at the MCATA conference in October. I would like to take the opportunity again to thank our conference planning committee for putting together an excellent program. To those of you who returned your evaluation forms, thank you for your feedback; next year's conference will benefit from your input. With the automatic specialist council memberships offered by the ATA, we are hoping to see more teachers becoming involved with MCATA. If you have a colleague teaching math who is not an MCATA member, please encourage him or her to join us. We all know that math teachers have the most fun!

Those teachers who are teaching the optional new curriculum in kindergarten or Grades 1, 4 or 7 are busy attending workshops and networking with each other to discover the best way to present new material to their students. If you are one of these teachers, please consider sharing your experiences, successes and challenges with your colleagues at our Mathematics Council conference in Jasper next October. Speaker proposal forms are enclosed with this newsletter and are also available on the website. From now until 2012, when the new curriculum is fully implemented, math teachers will be forming very strong professional learning communities. We will be helping each other reach the necessary depth of knowledge that our students will require.

The MCATA executive is working on your behalf to help make sure that the new curriculum is successfully implemented. We have sent out a needs assessment for Grades K–6 and 7–9 to help the math council in preparing for future conferences. Please send us your response, because this is information that we are also sharing with other stakeholders to ensure that teachers' PD needs are being met. We are working closely with Alberta Education and the regional consortia to provide input.

Whether you are teaching elementary, junior high or high school, whether you are teaching new or old curriculum, take time to reflect on the passion that we feel about our students discovering our love of mathematics. May the warmth of that passion help us to get through the long Alberta winter!

Sharon Gach

mv 87

New MCATA Executive Members Introduce Themselves

Tom Janzen

I have joined the MCATA executive for this year as the Dr Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award recipient for 2007. I graduated from the University of Alberta in April 2007 and am currently living in Strathmore, my hometown. I am teaching at Sequoia Outreach School, in Gleichen, where I work with secondary students from the Siksika Nation.

Rod Lowry, Director at Large

Although I taught high school mathematics at the beginning of my career, I have been teaching in the elementary mathematics program for the last 14 years. Currently, I work in the Westwind School Division and am based in Cardston. I majored in math education in both my BEd and MA degrees, and I love to teach math. I am looking forward to serving on the MCATA executive and getting to know other math teachers throughout the province.
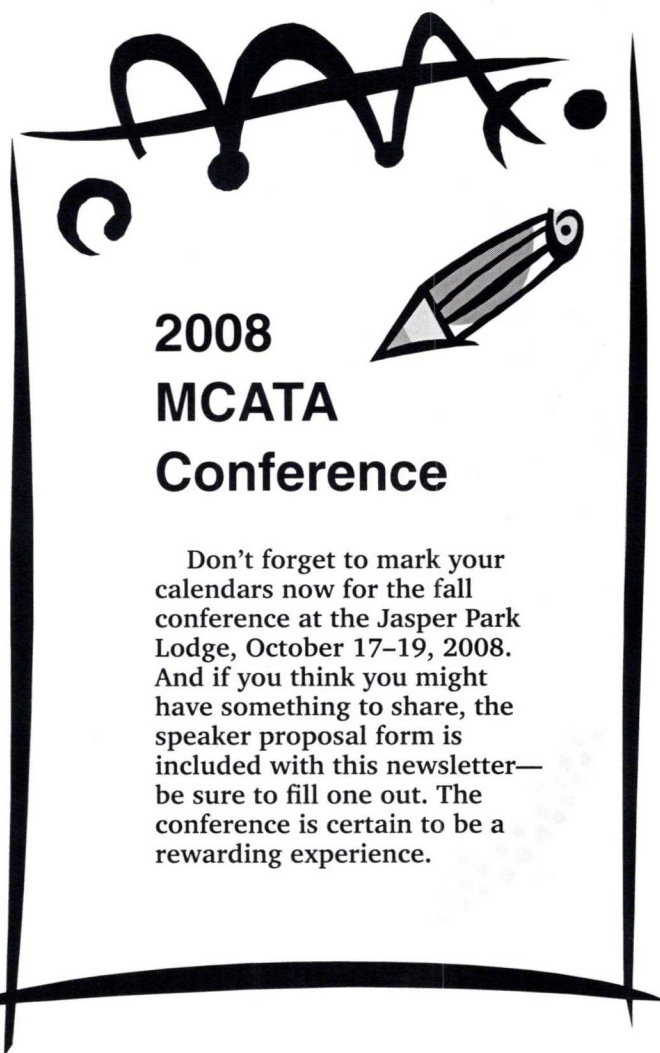
Mona Borle, Director at Large

I have been teaching math in Alberta for the past 25 years and am presently teaching at Notre Dame High School, in Red Deer. This is an exciting time for math education in Alberta and I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Lori Weinberger, Director of Professional Development

Currently, I serve as the numeracy coordinator for the Fort McMurray Public School District, but in the past I have taught Grades 7–12 math and science courses and adult upgrading for Lethbridge Community College. I have served as a facilitator for ERLC and SAPDC and put on various training workshops for teachers. In addition, I worked for Alberta Education on item writing and test development.

Kathy McCabe, Alberta Education Representative

I am a principal from Edmonton Public Schools who has been seconded to Alberta Education. I have been a math consultant and was an exam manager for Pure Math 30 before joining Edmonton Public Schools. Prior to that, I was seconded to the University of Alberta.

2008 MCATA Conference

Don't forget to mark your calendars now for the fall conference at the Jasper Park Lodge, October 17–19, 2008. And if you think you might have something to share, the speaker proposal form is included with this newsletter— be sure to fill one out. The conference is certain to be a rewarding experience.

MCATA 2007 Fall Symposium

Our 2007 fall symposium took place at the West Edmonton Mall Conference Centre, on October 18. Dr Lynn McGarvey, an associate professor of mathematics education from the University of Alberta, spoke on the topic, "Connecting Algebraic Thinking to Algebraic Representation." Dr McGarvey's session led to excellent professional conversations among the diverse participants. Every one of the feedback sheets we received had very positive comments regarding the session, and about Dr McGarvey in particular. Our symposia are generally held twice a year and are opportunities for people involved in mathematics education leadership to deeply explore current topics and issues. Our spring symposium will be held on May 2, 2008, in Calgary (location to be determined); the topic will be "Personal Strategies" with Dr David DeCoste.

Mathematics Education in Canada: What Needs to Be Done?

This is a call for participation in the 2009 Canadian Mathematics Education Forum (CMEF). The next forum will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, from Thursday, April 30, to Sunday, May 3, 2009, and is being cosponsored by the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS) and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS). This call is going out to all school systems, teachers at all levels, coordinators, school boards, colleges and universities, mathematics and statistics departments, faculties of education, ministries of education, parent groups, and business and industry.

The Theme of the Forum

Almost every province is struggling with mathematics curriculum reform. It is generally felt that getting it right is a long-term process that requires sustained work; continuous partnership with teachers, from design to implementation and adjustments; consultation with mathematicians and mathematics educators; support for teacher professional learning; access to rich resources; and manageability and coherence of assessment policies and practices.

In trying to address some of the main concerns and challenges that were expressed at the previous two CMEFs, organizers plan to focus the next forum on the ways in which resources and assessment define, inform and mould curriculum. To this end, they require the collaboration of people involved at different levels in the teaching of mathematics, particularly school teachers.

Gladys Sterenberg

Award Winners

Congratulations to our award winners for 2007. MCATA is pleased to recognize their contributions to mathematics education in Alberta.

Mathematics Educator of the Year	Sandra Unrau
Friends of MCATA	Eithne Keegan and Tom Janzen
Dr Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award	Tom Janzen

Update on Acceptance of Applied Mathematics 30 for Postsecondary Education

Effective immediately, Concordia University College, in Edmonton, has recently updated the entrance requirements for its Bachelor of Management program. Applicants will now be able to present either Applied Mathematics 30 or Pure Mathematics 30 to fulfill the math requirement.

In the past there have been limited opportunities for postsecondary education for students presenting Applied Mathematics 30 as their math requirement. The change by Concordia University College represents a significant shift that opens the door to postsecondary education for students taking Applied Mathematics 30.

We request that you share this information with the teachers and guidance counsellors in your zone so that they can provide current advice to their students.

Alberta Education Update

The K–9 Mathematics program of studies is available on the Mathematics home page of the Alberta Education website at http://education. alberta.ca/teachers/core/math.aspx. It is also available with achievement indicators from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC). A draft online guide is currently available to support implementation of the Kindergarten and Grades 1, 4 and 7 programs of studies.

The Western and Northern Protocol (WNCP) Common Curriculum Framework (CCF) for Mathematics 10–12 has been completed and is now posted at www.wncp.ca. The Alberta Mathematics 20-2 and 30-2 courses have been reviewed by teachers, and the publishers' drafts of these courses are posted on the Alberta Education website.

Postsecondary institutions have been asked to review the math course sequences and determine which mathematics courses their programs will require. This is expected to be done well before the first graduates complete the revised mathematics program.

Edmonton Junior High Math Contest

Congratulations to these Edmonton Junior High Math Contest winners!

Top Teams

First Place: McKernan School

Nicholas Adamski, Mariya Sardarli, Jennifer Yu

Second Place: Vernon Barford School

Min Choi, Ranek Kiil, Philip Ma, Michael Zhao

Third Place: Avalon Junior High

Yuri Delanghe, Shaoran Li, Yanqing Jiang

Top 50 Winners

First Place

Nicholas Adamski, McKernan School
Yuri Delanghe, Avalon Junior High
Mariya Sardarli, McKernan School
Jennifer Yu, McKernan School

Second Place

Min Choi, Vernon Barford School
Philip Ma, Vernon Barford School

Third Place

Lindsey Uniat, Crestwood School
Michael Shirt, D S Mackenzie School
Ranek Kiil, Vernon Barford School
Michael Zhao, Vernon Barford School

Fourth Place

Michael Meiers, D S Mackenzie School

Fifth Place

Curtis Boulanger, St Rose Junior High School
Pinwen Duan, Vernon Barford School
Jennifer Guo, Crestwood School
Sam Jackson, Steele Heights School
Yanqing Jiang, Avalon Junior High
Shaoran Li, Avalon Junior High
Ying Ling, Vernon Barford School
Andrew Qi, Vernon Barford School
Kim Ty, Vernon Barford School
Kaiven Zhou, Vernon Barford School

6th Place

Gabriel Cunha, St Rose Junior High School
Justin Feng, Grandview Heights School

Seventh Place

Chris Gong, Vernon Barford School
Alex Lee, Londonderry School
Dan Parks, D S Mackenzie School
Fraser Philips, St Rose School
Kane Shillingford, Crestwood School
Alexandra Sywenky, Grandview Heights School
Leona Tang, Crestwood School

Eighth Place

John Chen, Vernon Barford School
Hunter Diederichs, Dan Knott School
Melissa Gosse, St Rose School
Keita Hill, St Rose School
Peggy Jankovic, Holy Cross Elementary/
    Junior High School
Elliott Kam, Crestwood School
Allan Kang, Grandview Heights School
Robert Long, Crestwood School
Jillian McCann, St Rose School
Thomas Pham, Kate Chegwin School
Nikolai Semenenko, Allendale School
Reid Sigmundson, Steele Heights School
Brandon Wilson, Avalon Junior High
Vishnu Vasanthan, Grandview Heights School
Celine Wlasichuk, Vernon Barford School
Cedric Wong, Parkview School
Henry Yu, St Rose School

Ninth Place

Jenny Lu, Rosslyn School