
PCSM NEWSLETTER

Leaders in Mathematics Education

Fall 2001

PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF SUPERVISORS OF MATHEMATICS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From the President

- Bernie Schroeder

Greetings from your president - the man of few words. I hope everyone has begun a productive and rewarding school year (and for those retired - a productive and rewarding September to September year).

News from the two Governor's Math Institutes at the Penn State (just outside State College) July 16-20 and July 30 - August 3: The word on the street is that the participants found most of the presentations and activities to be quite inspiring and useful. The first institute had 73 participants (room for 100, but a lot of last minute cancellations), and the second institute had 82 participants (again last minute cancellations) - two graduate credits, valuable information, graphing calculators, camaraderie, etc. --- all free to the participant. How can any teacher turn that down? STRONGLY urge teachers to attend next summer.

James Rubillo Named NCTM Executive Director (see page 3)

The Math Forum Moves to Drexel University (see page 4)

Have an excellent school year, and we'll see you all in Philly for the annual conference (it should be superb because it is being organized by our superb president elect, Carolyn Marchand) in March of 2002 (the first palindrome year of the new millenium).

Bernie Schroeder
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- Upcoming Events
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PCSM AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know an outstanding educator who should be recognized by PCSM for any of the following awards - Outstanding Service to PCSM, Outstanding Contribution to Mathematics Education or someone who throughout the years has had a major influence on mathematics education and deserves to be in the PCSM hall of Fame?

If you do, please send a letter of nomination by January 15, 2002 to:

Mary Foley
228 Sanderson Avenue
Olyphant, PA 18447

or foleymmath@earthlink.net

There are many outstanding educators who deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments. Don't wait. Send your nominations NOW!

LESSON STUDY: Teachers Learning Together Northwest Teacher, Spring 2001

Lesson Study is a professional development practice that holds substantial promise for improving teaching and learning. Lesson study is an ongoing practice used in schools throughout Japan in which teachers collaborate to plan, observe, and refine a lesson. Researchers believe that it is one of the key reasons for Japanese students' high achievement in mathematics and science.

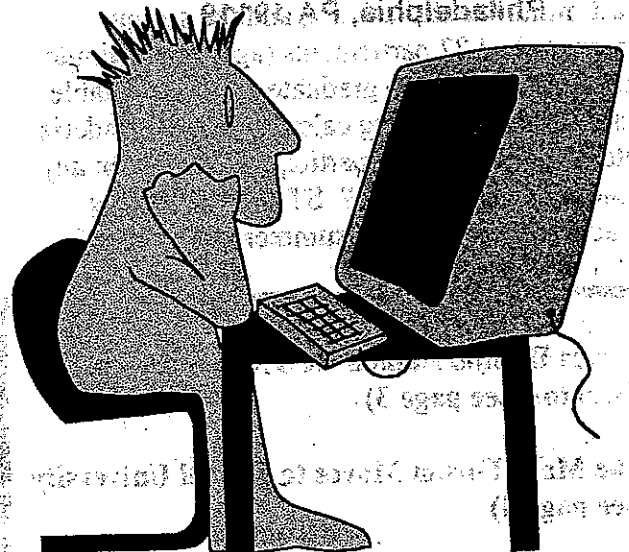
To request copies, contact Carole Crociante, Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium at RBS, 215-574-9300, ext. 280, fax: 215-574-0133 or email: crociante@rbs.org.

From the Editor
- Arlene Dowshen

Greetings to all PCSM members! I hope that all of you had an enjoyable summer and feel prepared to face the excitement and challenges of a new school year. Did you know that one of our members has been named the new Executive Director of NCTM? Jim Rubillo will be truly missed in the Philadelphia area, but we are proud of him and know that he will have a positive impact on NCTM. Please join me in congratulating Jim!

Please share the newsletter with your colleagues and encourage other mathematics leaders in your schools or communities to join PCSM. A membership application is included in the newsletter; please duplicate as needed.

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COMMENTS

We believe that this is the right home for the Math Forum for many reasons. Drexel is interested in online learning, technology in teaching, digital libraries, mathematics education, and other issues we find important. Moreover, they bring a combination of the practical and the theoretical into education in a way that we find exciting. We feel very comfortable returning to the academic fold, certainly wiser for our dot.com experience. We are grateful to WebCT for generously supporting us and for the concern they have displayed for the Math Forum Web site and our continuing research initiatives.

All of the Math Forum services will go forward, although the Problems of the Week (POWs) will provide services at a much lower level since they are so labor-intensive. We will also go forward in new directions, and, for example, hope to develop tools and techniques to train mentors for the POWs so that we can build them up in a cost-effective way. Another avenue we hope to explore is using the Math Forum and other digital libraries to study student learning. Now that our energies are no longer focused on our reorganization, we are ready to pursue many other collaborations with our friends and colleagues and would welcome suggestions for joint endeavors.

Please change your bookmarks and any links you may use to our site to:
<<http://mathforum.org/>>.

Thank you for your past support and interest. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lasher, Math Forum Director
Gene Klotz, Math Forum Senior Advisor

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Free from RBS: ENC Focus on Literacy - <<http://www.rbs.org/ec.nsf/pages/ENCFocus832001>>. Available right now in both print and online editions, the latest issue of *ENC Focus* takes an in-depth look at "Becoming Literate in Mathematics and Science," including media literacy. To obtain a free copy call 215-574-9300, ext. 280 or email mathsci@rbs.org.

Updated NCSM Sourcebook Information Now Online - The completed document, which will be available only at the ncsmonline.org Web site, will contain information in five sections:

- 1) Contacts Important to the Leadership Role
- 2) Supporting Our Role in Prof'l Development
- 3) Issues Surrounding the Improvement of the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics
- 4) Teaching Resources
- 5) Organizational Acronyms

Sections (1) and (5) are now available online.

Education Conferences - A month-by-month listing of national conferences through December 2002 is available on the California Department of Education Web site at <<http://www.cde.ca.gov/calendar>>.

Mathematics Education Web Sites - A collection of web sites for K-12 mathematics teachers and university instructors is available at <http://www.talent-ed.org/workshops/ms_sites.html>.

The University of Mississippi Mathematics Education Program sponsors Five Internet Problem of the Week contests that are designed for children and adults of all ages. The main Internet site, <www.olemiss.edu/mathed/contest>, contains five unique mathematical problem-solving problems each week. Students can email solutions to the contest site. A return message is sent indicating whether or not the respondent's solution was correct. Have fun!

Pennsylvania Council of Supervisors of Mathematics

An affiliate of PCTM and NCSM

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NCTM Eastern Regional Conference
 October 25-27, 2001, Somerset, New Jersey
 Information available at <www.nctm.org> or contact
 Joyce or David Glatzer at 1-973-742-6284

**School Science and Mathematics (SSMA) 100th Annual
 Conference and Anniversary Celebration**
 November 1-3, 2001, Downers Grove, Illinois
 For more information visit the SSMA Web site at
 <<http://www.ssma.org/>>.

**Fourteenth Annual International Conference on
 Technology in Collegiate Mathematics**
 November 1-4, 2001, Baltimore, Maryland
 For more information visit <www.ictcm.org> or call
 1-800-472-6288.

**AMTE (Association of Mathematics Teacher
 Educators) 6th Annual Conference**
 January 24-26, 2002, San Antonio, Texas
 Speaker proposal form is available at <[www.ceemast.
 csupomona.edu/amte/conference/2002/index.html](http://www.ceemast.csupomona.edu/amte/conference/2002/index.html)>.

**Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML)
 29th Annual Conference**
 RCML seeks to stimulate, generate, coordinate, and
 disseminate research efforts designed to identify,
 understand, and affect factors that influence mathematics
 learning.
 March 7-9, 2002, Memphis, Tennessee
 Speaker proposals are requested. Contact Sheryl Maxwell
 at 901-678-4061

PCSM Annual Conference
 March 14, 2002, Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA

**PCTM Annual Conference - Through the Looking
 Glass, Reflecting upon the Past, Looking towards the
 Future**
 March 14-16, 2002, Adam's Mark Hotel, Philadelphia, PA
 (Announcement and speaker response form are included
 as inserts in this newsletter. These forms are also
 available at <www.PCTM.org>.)

**NCSM 34th Annual Conference - Seize the
 Opportunity: Provide the Leadership**
 April 19-21 (Friday-Sunday), 2002, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Speaker proposal form is available at <ncsonline.org>.

NCTM Annual Conference
 April 21-24 (Sunday-Wednesday), 2002, Las Vegas, NE
 For more information go to <www.nctm.org>.

Mark you calendars!

**The NCTM 2004 Annual Conference will be
 in Philadelphia, PA
 April 22-24, 2004
 The Pennsylvania Convention Center**

Good News from the Math Forum

Dear Math Forum Friends:

We at the Math Forum are delighted to send you
 a letter from Constantine Papadakis, the
 president of Drexel University. His letter
 explains the good news about changes at the
 Math Forum. Our comments follow his letter.

The Math Forum, the nation's leading Web site
 for math and math education has been acquired
 by Drexel University and is now known as The
 Math Forum@Drexel. The new address of the
 site is: <<http://mathforum.org/>>. Under the
 direction of Dr. Harvill Eaton the University
 will maintain the site as the nation's premier
 mathematics resource.

The site will continue to offer Math Forum@
 Drexel users all previous services, and will
 introduce new features and communities to
 ensure the site remains on the cutting edge.
 Drexel brings many strengths to the Math
 Forum: expertise in mathematics, information
 science and technology, and education, as well
 as a multidisciplinary team of faculty members
 and graduate students to serve as volunteers and
 content providers.

Thank you for your support of the Math Forum.
 Drexel looks forward to continuing to provide
 you with the latest mathematics information and
 technology.

Sincerely,
 Constantine Papadakis, President
 Drexel University

NCTM ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Effective August 1, 2001, **James M. Rubillo** became NCTM's executive director. Jim has been a mathematics teacher - at the high school, community college, and university levels - for 36 years, is a long time PCSM member, and has served as membership chair of ATMOPAV (Association of Teachers of Mathematics of Philadelphia and Vicinity) for many years.

Jim brings a wealth of executive-level administrative experience to the job, including strategic planning, institutional assessment, technology implementation, and large-scale project management. He is well known in the mathematics education community and has served on the Board of Directors of NCTM and many NCTM annual and regional program committees. He is a frequent speaker at local, state, and national mathematics education meetings and was NCTM's interim executive director during the 1997-1998 academic year.

"We look forward to working with Jim as we continue our efforts to better serve our members and to make the vision of a high-quality mathematics education for every child a reality," said NCTM President, Lee V. Stiff.

(See <<http://www.nctm.org/news/releases/2001-08-rubillo.htm>>.)

Free Legislative Listserve

Join NCTM's free Legislative and Policy Update listserv by sending an e-mail message to legnet@nctm.org. Include your e-mail address, name, grade you teach or teaching specialty, and state. If your address changes or if you want to unsubscribe, send a message to legnet@nctm.org.

OTHER NEWS FROM NCTM

NCTM and Duke Energy Plan New Professional Development Web Site for Teachers - NCTM and Duke Energy Corporation have announced that they are joining forces to create a Web-based professional development program for teachers called *Reflections*. (See <<http://www.nctm.org/news/articles/2001-05duke.htm>>.)

TIMSS-Benchmarking Shows U.S. Students' Mathematics Achievement Varies Widely - TIMSS-benchmarking showed that a great deal of variation exists in the mathematics that students are learning and being taught in schools across the United States. (See <<http://www.nctm.org/news/articles/2001-05timss.htm>>.)

NCTM Finds Both Encouragement, Need for Improvement, in NAEP Report - NCTM stated that it was encouraged by the most recent results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), but that more needed to be done to improve mathematics education for all students. (See <<http://www.nctm.org/news/releases/2001-08-naep.htm>>.)

Mark Your Calendar for WLME 8 - It's not too early to start planning for the World's Largest Math Event (WLME) 8 - Entertaining Mathematics - on April 26, 2002. WLME 8 activities will focus on the entertainment media, including theater, movies, books, music, and television. Activity booklets and posters will be mailed to all NCTM members in March 2002 and will be posted on NCTM's Web site.

Subscribe to NCTM's WebNews which is designed to inform NCTM members and those interested in NCTM activities about the workings of the Council in greater depth than afforded in the *NCTM News Bulletin*. To subscribe to this free service see <<http://www.nctm.org/webnews/index.htm>>.