

# POINTS AND ANGLES

Newsletter of the Metropolitan  
Mathematics Club of Chicago

NCTM  
Charter  
1 Metropolitan  
Mathematics  
Club of  
Chicago



Volume XXXIX

March 2005

No. 7

## “Yes Virginia. There are Women in the History of Mathematics”

BY JOHN DIEHL

It is true that our organization was once called The Men’s Mathematics Club of Chicago. We certainly have come a long way since those days. Our March speaker, Herb Kasube will take us a bit further as he shares his expertise on women in mathematics. Herb’s interest in the topic is based on his concern that too often when people visualize a mathematician they think of a male. The perception can send the wrong message to young girls who are interested in mathematics. We will all benefit by gaining helpful knowledge of some of the influential women in the history of mathematics. Hopefully, we also will share the message, and strive to help Herb with this belief that we can change the way mathematicians are perceived.

Herb certainly has his own history in Illinois. He was raised in Oak Lawn, attended Oak Lawn Community HS, earned his BA in math and physics at MacMurray College, his MA in Math at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his PhD in Math at the University of Montana. Herb is currently an associate professor of Mathematics at Bradley University in Peoria.

Among his many contributions to the profession are terms as Chair of the Illinois Section of MAA, and on the ICTM Board of Directors. He is author of two textbooks, numerous articles, and a new CD ROM of modules in the history of mathematics. Herb’s daughter, Emilie, teaches high school mathematics in Kansas City, MO.

REMEMBER!! You can earn CPDU credits for attending dinner meetings!

Date: Friday, March 11, 2005  
Time: 5:30 p.m. Doors Open  
6:00 p.m. Social Hour  
7:00 p.m. Dinner and Talk  
Place: Fountain Blue Banquets &  
Convention Center  
2300 Mannheim Rd.  
Des Plaines, IL  
(847) 298-3636  
Cost: Members \$31  
Nonmembers \$37

RESERVATION DEADLINE  
Monday, March 7, by noon, please!

TO RESERVE:

Call Lee Ann Swanson at  
(630) 570-8421 or

email: [lswanson@hinsdale86.org](mailto:lswanson@hinsdale86.org)

Requests for special meals must be made  
in advance.



From Southbound I-294 &  
Eastbound I-290:  
Exit at I-190 West to O’Hare; Exit onto North  
Mannheim Rd.; Take Mannheim Rd. North  
2.25 miles.  
From Northbound I-294:  
Exit at West Touhy Ave.; Take Touhy Ave. to  
Mannheim Rd.; Turn right on Mannheim Rd.  
Public Transit:  
Take the CTA Blue Line to the Rosemont  
Bus Terminal; Take Pace Bus #223; Exit at  
Touhy Ave. & Lee Rd.; Walk East on Touhy  
to Mannheim Rd.

Future Meeting:  
May 13

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# Points from the Interior

## Sharing What We Know

BY GWEN ZIMMERMANN

Teachers are professionals. As such, we continually seek opportunities to grow professionally. If we are fortunate, we work in an environment that enables us to collaborate with others where we have opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues. Unfortunately, many of us may not have such face-to-face opportunities. Yet whether or not we work with colleagues or not, teachers are making discoveries about teaching and student learning of mathematics. It seems so wasteful that we are not sharing our knowledge with others who could benefit from our experiences. But wait . . . we can share with each other! Research and conferences provide us both access to what peers are discovering about student learning as well as a forum for sharing lessons we have learned ourselves.

The research I am referring to is vastly different than the quantitative data that NCLB is seeking. There is certainly value in quantitative data, but there are also lessons to be

learned in stories that we have to share. Action research can be a very natural extension of our work in the classroom. There are books and courses available that tell us how to conduct action research, and for those interested in a more “formal” type of action research, I would encourage you to seek out such resources. But I don’t believe “research” necessarily has to be quite so formal for it to be useful.

The Japanese have developed a professional development model that has worked very well as a vehicle to share knowledge about student learning. Lesson study, as it is known, has been used for several years as a way to use existing research to create new research. Lesson study usually begins with a group of teachers who have a question they want answered, such as “how do students think about similarity?” The group researches what is known about student reasoning as it relates to similarity, and from there a lesson is designed. One of the teachers teaches the group-designed lesson on similarity while the rest of the group is in the classroom collecting data and making observations. The group reconvenes, discusses what happened, adjusts the lesson, and then the lesson is re-taught by another teacher. (This simplistic explanation of Japanese Lesson Study omits many critical details. For more information on lesson study please go to [www.nwrel.org/msec/nwteacher/spring2001/index.html](http://www.nwrel.org/msec/nwteacher/spring2001/index.html)). A summary of the lesson study then becomes shared research with other teachers in Japan.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful to collaborate with other teachers and share ideas, similar to a lesson study? However, that isn’t often possible because of constraints, particularly time. But we can do mini research projects within our own classroom. As a quick example, consider the following. As in lesson study, I begin with a question, “can I help my students develop their metacognition, that is can I help them to reflect on their mistakes and learn from them?” I then design activities that I think will help develop the practice of reflecting on mistakes then tend to make on quizzes or tests. I use journals and other accessible research to help with ideas. I can then use surveys and student work to assess the progress my students are making. Even if my activities don’t work, I have learned from this process. Now comes a critical part, I need to share my findings with other colleagues. This means writing up an article and submitting it for publication or presenting at a conference. ICTM’s IMT is always seeking articles to publish and NCTM’s Mathematics Teacher is another publication to consider. As far as presenting what you have learned, there is the MMC Conference and ICTM’s Annual Conference, as well as NCTM regional conferences, to name a few. The point is that we need to share our successes and our learning opportunities with others so they too can benefit from our experiences.

MMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS		Term
Gwen Zimmermann	Hinsdale Central High School, Hinsdale	
President		2003-2006
John Diehl	Hinsdale Central High School, Hinsdale	
President-Elect		2004-2007
Simonette Urbain	Morton West High School, Berwyn	
Past President		2002-2005
Steve Viktora	New Trier High School, Winnetka	
Secretary		2002-2005
Ron Vavrinek	Illinois Math and Science Academy (Retired)	
Treasurer		2004-2005
Mary Wiltjer	Oak Park and River Forrest High School, Oak Park	
Membership Coordinator		2004-2007
Carol Nenne	Lemont High School, Lemont	
Government Relations		2004-2007
Harlan Goldberg	Oakton Community College/Lake Forest College	
NCTM/ICTM Representative		2003-2006
Martin Funk	New Trier High School, Winnetka	
Webmaster		2004-2005
George Pryjma	Northeastern Illinois University	
Historian		2004-2005
Paul Cristmas	Buffalo Grove High School, Buffalo Grove	
Publicity		2004-2005
Kristen Clegg	Educational Consultant, Streamwood	
P&A Editor		2004-2007
Phil Gartner	Vernon Hills High School, Vernon Hills	
P&A Staff		2002-2005
Ray Klein	Glenbard West High School, Glen Ellyn	
P&A Staff		2003-2006
Bill Roloff	Lake Park High School, Roselle	
Scholarship Chair		2002-2005
Jenny Wexler	New Trier High School, Winnetka	
Board Liaison		2003-2006

Continued from Page 2 . . .

We don't always have the opportunities to collaborate with peers and learn from each other. Yet we have so many lessons to share and so much to learn from others. I realize that writing and presenting take time, but if we all take time to share, we can actually save time and energy, and more importantly, our students will be the ultimate benefactors.

### **Board Report Meeting of 2 February 2005**

The Board of Directors held its third meeting of the 2004-2005 academic year on 2 February 2005. The following are highlights of that meeting.

- Board members would like to encourage students to attend the May meeting. We have done this in the past and have found it to be a nice way to introduce potential future teachers to a professional organization that has been valuable for all of us. We will also honor the winner of our scholarship at that meeting.
- The May meeting will also provide an opportunity to recognize members for their years of membership in the organization.
- Mary Wiltjer reported a club membership of 511, of whom 10 are first year members, 46 are retired members, 47 are student members, and 2 are life members.
- Ron Vavrinek submitted a treasurer's report indicating that the club is in good financial shape; the Board approved his report unanimously.
- Board members expressed their gratitude for the excellent work done by Isaac Greenspan, John McConnell, Mary Wiltjer for their Herculean efforts in organizing the MMC Conference of Workshops. At least 463 teachers attended the workshops. Planning began for next year's conference, and two west suburban schools have already expressed an interest in hosting it.
- Gwen Zimmermann appointed a committee to begin the process of updating the By-Laws.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 26 May 2005 at the home of Sam Urbain at 6:00 PM. Members of the club are welcome to attend any Board meeting, but please contact Sam Urbain at [samu303@aol.com](mailto:samu303@aol.com) before 19 May if you plan to attend this meeting. Because this is a dinner meeting, you would be expected to pay for your meal.

#### POINTS AND ANGLES

Volume XXXIX, Number 7, March 2005

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The official club website: <http://www.mmccchicago.org/>

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[kristenclegg@comcast.net](mailto:kristenclegg@comcast.net)

## Board of Directors Election Information

By the time this issue of Points and Angles reaches you, you may have already received your ballot in the mail – a blue postcard like the one pictured below. To cast your vote, either bring the card with you to the March 11 dinner meeting (and see Herb Kasube's talk), or mail it back (please be sure to put a stamp on it and get it postmarked by March 26). Results will be announced in May.

**METROPOLITAN MATHEMATICS CLUB OF CHICAGO**  
**2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION BALLOT**

Bring this ballot to the March 11 meeting or mail it in.  
 Mailed ballots must be postmarked by March 26, 2005. Don't forget the stamp!

**President Elect: (vote for one)**

Harlan Goldberg       Richard Rukin

**Board Members: (vote for three)**

Phil Gartner    Vernon Hills HS  
 Tonda Hager    Waubonsie Valley HS  
 Ilene Hamiton    Stevenson HS  
 Vanessa Lieveris    Neuqua Valley HS  
 Stacy Tait Lyons    Township HS  
 Steve Viktora    New Trier HS

### Candidates for President

Harlan Goldberg

- Current MMC board member  
NCTM/ICTM liason
- Founding member of CAPS
- AP Stats reader
- 33 Years Highland Park H S - Retired
- Adjunct faculty Oakton Community College
- Frequent NCTM-ICTM conference speaker

Richard Rukin

- Mathematics Teacher Evanston Township HS since 1976 and department chair 1988-1994
- Textbook author – McDougal Littell
- Head math team coach 1980-1990
- MMC board member for 9 years
- Recipient Edith May Sliffe award from the MAA
- Frequent NCTM-ICTM-MMC Conference speaker

### Candidates for the Board

Phil Gartner  
Vernon Hills HS

Tonda Hager  
Waubonsie Valley HS

Ilene Hamiton  
Stevenson HS

Vanessa Lieveris  
Neuqua Valley HS

Stacy Tait  
Lyons Township HS

Steve Viktora  
New Trier HS

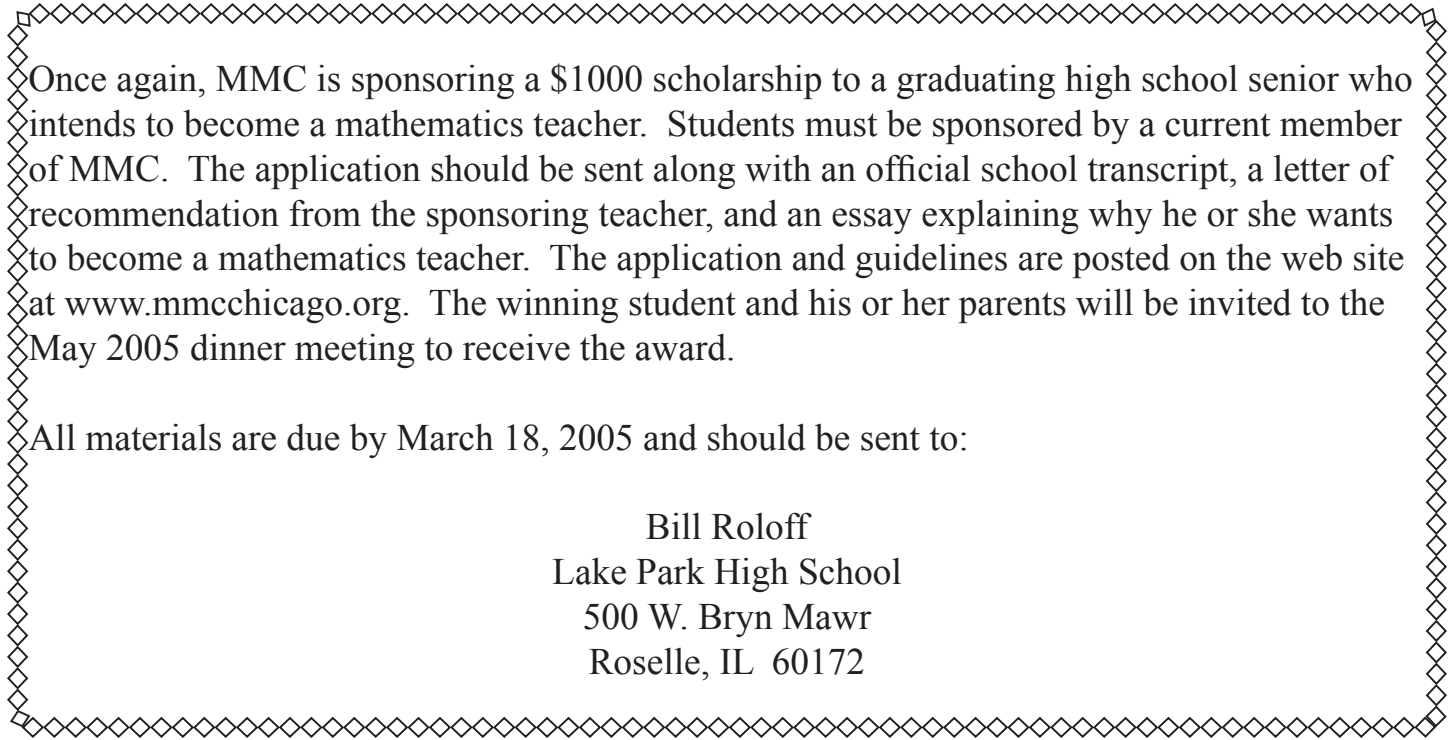
I'd like to give special thanks to those people who worked on the election committee. Without the effort, hard work and dedication of volunteers, MMC could not be the incredible organization that it has become. Have you spoken at the MMC Conference of Workshops? Have you served on an organizational committee: speaker selection or election committee? Every year 3 board members and the past president fulfill their obligation to this organization. New voices are always needed. Maybe next year you will step forward.

Once again, thank you to the following people:

Carol Nenne  
 Jennifer Wexler  
 Harlan Goldberg  
 Ilene Hamilton  
 Fern Tribbey

Three years ago Bill Messersmith said to me "It's really nice to be Past President." I replied to him, "that's exactly my goal." It has been a wonderful 3 years and I am proud to join the elite group of people known as Past Presidents of MMC.

Simonette Urbain



Once again, MMC is sponsoring a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who intends to become a mathematics teacher. Students must be sponsored by a current member of MMC. The application should be sent along with an official school transcript, a letter of recommendation from the sponsoring teacher, and an essay explaining why he or she wants to become a mathematics teacher. The application and guidelines are posted on the web site at [www.mmccchicago.org](http://www.mmccchicago.org). The winning student and his or her parents will be invited to the May 2005 dinner meeting to receive the award.

All materials are due by March 18, 2005 and should be sent to:

Bill Roloff  
 Lake Park High School  
 500 W. Bryn Mawr  
 Roselle, IL 60172

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 MMC Membership and Change of Address Form

Mail to: MMC  
 415 S. Ridgeland Ave. #2  
 Oak Park, IL 60302

Make check payable to MMC.

Please use a different form for each person.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:     New  Renewal

Address  \_\_\_\_\_

Choose one:

1 year                      (\$20)                      \_\_\_\_\_

2 year                        (\$35)                      \_\_\_\_\_

3 year                         (\$50)                      \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> year teacher           

School \_\_\_\_\_

retired                         (\$10)                      \_\_\_\_\_

Address  \_\_\_\_\_

student                      

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donations:

Scholarship Fund                      \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker Fund                            \_\_\_\_\_

Check preferred mailing address above.

Total amount of check:                      \_\_\_\_\_

Change of Address

# NOTICES & REMINDERS

3rd Annual USACAS Conference  
 at  
 The Westminster Schools  
 Atlanta, GA  
 June 25 and 26, 2005

For more information contact:  
<http://www.westminster.net/USACAS>  
 or Natalie Jakucyn at [njakucyn@glenbrook.k12.il.us](mailto:njakucyn@glenbrook.k12.il.us)

## VOTE!

Don't forget to cast your vote in the 2005 Board of Directors election—look for the blue ballot postcard in your mail, check off your chosen candidates, and either bring the ballot with you to the March 11<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting or mail it back by March 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, see page 4.

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NCTM Annual Conference  
 Anaheim, CA  
 April 6-9, 2005

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## [HTTP://WWW.MMCCHICAGO.ORG/](http://WWW.MMCCHICAGO.ORG/)

Old issues of POINTS AND ANGLES, summaries of talks given at MMC meetings, the MMC Scholarship application, job openings and people looking for jobs, and more!

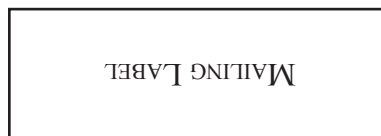
## MMC Conference of Workshops

Thanks to all the speakers, all the attendees, Francis Parker School, Robin Masters, John McConnell, Paul Christmas and all the volunteers for making the conference happen.

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If you would like a notice or reminder to appear in POINTS AND ANGLES, please email the text you would like to appear to [kristenclegg@comcast.net](mailto:kristenclegg@comcast.net) no later than the date of the MMC meeting preceding the issue in which you would like it to appear. All notices are subject to editing.

Your membership renewal date appears in the upper right corner of the label.



METROPOLITAN MATHEMATICS CLUB OF CHICAGO  
 c/o MMC  
 415 S. Ridgeland Ave. #2  
 Oak Park, IL 60302

