

# Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago  
Volume XLIII No. 9, June 2009

## The 2009–2010 Program: From B to Z

Ed Burger  
Steve Rasmussen  
Michael Todd Edwards  
Millie Johnson  
Akihiko Takahashi  
Richard Stalmack  
Ken Indeck  
Zal Usiskin

By PAUL CHRISTMAS

On September 11, Ed Burger, author of *The Heart of Mathematics*, will return to help us get the school year started. He has received the Lester R. Ford Award from the Mathematical Association of America and was named one of the 100 Best in America by Reader's Digest. On October 2, Steve Rasmussen, founder of Key Curriculum Press, will give us *A Mathematics Education Travelogue in Asia: Dispelling Myths, Opening Dialog*. Michael Todd Edwards, professor at Miami University and CAS expert, will be the speaker at the November 6 meeting. He has spoken at NCTM, USACAS, and the MMC Conference of Workshops. Millie Johnson, a MMC favorite, returns for the December 11 meeting. In *Tracking Mathematical Threads from Early Childhood through College* Millie will start with concepts like counting and measuring lengths and follow the evolution of these ideas to partial derivatives and power series.

2010 starts January 8 with Akahiko Takahashi. A DePaul University professor known internationally, he will discuss his work with Japanese Lesson Studies. On February 5, Richard Stalmack, a teacher at IMSA, will wow us with demonstrations where mathematics and physics interact and support one another. Ken Indeck, teacher at Wheeling High School, will be the March 12 speaker. His talks always involve great mathematics, pedagogy hints, and philosophy of education that have made him an outstanding mathematics teacher. On May 7, Zal Usiskin will discuss *The Geometry of Shape and the Shape of Geometry*.

Put these eight dates on your calendar now! You won't want to miss a single meeting. (And bring someone with you to each meeting!!!)



**From I-90 & Southbound I-294:** 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 to Touhy Ave. & Lee Rd.; Walk East on Touhy to Mannheim Rd.

### Friday, September 11, 2009

5:30 PM Doors Open, 6:00 PM Social Hour,  
7:00 PM Dinner and Talk

### Fountain Blue Banquets & Convention Center

2300 Mannheim Rd., Des Plaines  
(847) 298-3636

\$34 for Members, \$39 for Nonmembers

Reserve by Noon, Monday, Sept. 7  
reservations@mmcchicago.org

# Sublime Sketchpad

By JOHN FINNEGAN

Driving through rush hour traffic en route to the May 8 MMC dinner meeting, my mind drifted back to the events of the low level geometry class that I had substitute-taught that day. The students were raucous and definitely not up to the task of taking a quiz structured around finding the areas of various regular polygons. I remember hoping that Nick Jackiw would provide some insight on how to engage these types of students when he presented his talk on the newest version of Geometer's Sketchpad (GSP) that evening. Mr. Jackiw did not disappoint me

as he demonstrated the features of version 5 of GSP. Whether he was morphing President Obama's face

into various shapes or rotating the Google logo around a fixed point, Mr. Jackiw kept his audience enthralled for the full hour of his presentation. It was hard to imagine a student (of any level of mathematical ability) that would not be captivated by this learning tool. Hence, it was not surprising when Mr. Jackiw proclaimed that the users of GSP spanned through a wide range of mathematical experiences; kindergarten age students through research physicists.

What really distinguishes version 5 of GSP from its earlier relatives is its ability to digitize sound and images simultaneously. Mr. Jackiw amazed the audience when he illustrated how a user of GSP 5 could not only visualize a function but also hear it. This feature of GSP 5 brought to mind Howard Gardner's often quoted, but difficult to implement theory of multiple intelligences. In the past it was simply

It is useless to try to describe with words how GSP 5 enables a user to experience the sound of a function—this is truly a phenomenon that one has to encounter in person.

## Points & Angles, Volume XLIII

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incomprehensible how one might hear a function but now here is a tool that accomplishes this feat effortlessly and with incredible clarity. In fact, it is useless to try to describe with words how GSP 5 enables a user to experience the sound of a function. This is truly a phenomenon that one had to encounter in person. GSP 5 is an educational tool that makes differentiated instruction a *reality* instead of an objective.

In addition to these new features, GSP 5 still retains all the qualities of previous versions that have assisted individuals in constructing their own mathematical knowledge for the past twenty years. The introduction of GSP 5 makes one year for what might be next in Mr. Jackiw's thoughts. However, patience must be exercised in this regard—GSP 5 is not officially being offered for purchase until a date to be determined later this year.



## Board Report 16 May 2009

BY STEVE VIKTORA

The Board of Directors met on 16 May 2009. Most of the meeting was devoted to procedural matters.

Ron Vavrinek pointed out that the club ran a deficit of about \$5500 this past year. Board members are exploring ways of improving the financial situation.

Mary Wiltjer reported a club membership of 574, of whom 37 are students, 48 are retired, 9 are first-year teachers, and 32 are e-members.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 27 August 2009 at 6:00 PM. Members of the club are welcome to attend any Board meeting, but please contact Phil Gartner at [pgartner@glenbrook.k12.il.us](mailto:pgartner@glenbrook.k12.il.us) before 20 August if you plan to attend. Because this is a dinner meeting, you would be expected to pay for your meal.



## Sixth U.S.A. Conference on CAS

June 26–27, 2010

New Trier H.S.  
Northfield, IL

More information available soon at [MEECAS.ORG](http://MEECAS.ORG) or contact Patty Bowler-Johnson ([bowlerjp@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:bowlerjp@newtrier.k12.il.us)) or Ilene Hamilton ([ihamilton@d125.org](mailto:ihamilton@d125.org))

## MMC Notices

**Election Results.** The official results of the March MMC Board election have been announced and they are as follows: Don Porzio, IMSA, will be the President-elect for the 2009–2010 school year while Jenny Wexler, New Trier H.S., won reelection and Dan Hall, York H.S., and Lisa Parker, Lincoln-Way Central H.S., were newly elected to the Board. The Board would like to thank the following members who have completed their terms: (1) Ron Vavrinek, who just completed his sixth year as treasurer; (2) Bob Ruzich, who served as NCTM/ICTM liaison; and (3) Conrad Wayne, Past President. A fourth board member, Martin Funk is leaving his appointed board position, but will continue to be the MMC Webmaster. Also, thanks to all those members who took the time to vote in this year's election.

— Conrad Wayne

**Dinner Price Increase.** The MMC Board, after extensive deliberation, has decided that an increase in the dinner price is necessary to put MMC back on a path toward financial stability. The prices for 2008–2009 were \$31 (members) and \$37 (nonmembers). These prices were set in 2004. Since then, our costs have increased significantly. For years now, the price paid by members does not cover what MMC has to pay Fountain Blue for the dinner, taxes, and gratuities. While MMC has been operating at a loss, its cash reserves have dwindled. In just the last year the assets have decreased by approximately one-third. It is imperative that the dinner prices be increased to meet the cost of the dinner. To that end, the Board will be raising the prices to \$34 (members) and \$39 (nonmembers) effective for the 2009–2010 dinners.

These prices will help MMC break even on dinners so that our reserves are no longer subsidizing dinners. Obviously we will do all that we can to keep costs down in the future. We will continue to solicit sponsors to pay speakers' expenses, to collect charitable contributions from our members who are able to give, to encourage electronic newsletter subscriptions, and other measures. It is, of course, our desire to keep prices as low as possible while continuing to offer the service to our members that they deserve.

— Phil Gartner

# Scholarship Winners

BY ISMAEL ZAMORA

The MMC Scholarship Winner is Raphael Stern from Evanston Township High School; he was nominated by Mr. John Benson.

The first (in no particular order) Filliman Scholarship Winners is Daniel Schliffka III from Lincoln-Way Central High School; he was nominated by Mrs. Lisa Parker. The second Filliman Scholarship Winner is Justin Troyka from Illinois Math and Science Academy; he was nominated by Dr. Micah Fogel.

The MMC would like to thank the Filliman family for their continued support. The Fillimans were active members of MMC and their legacy continues through the scholarships given in their name. Thanks also to Texas Instruments for their continuing support and their contribution of TI-Nspire calculators for the winners as well as for covering the meals for our winners and their families.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the MMC

Scholarship, either through monetary donations or by nominating a student. It is a really rewarding experience for me as Scholarship Chair to read about the great students we have. I would like to thank the committee, Conrad Wayne, George Pryjma, and Linda Korbus, for their help in selecting this year's winner.

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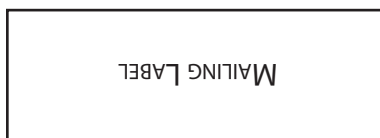


# Upcoming Events

Fri., Sept. 11	Ed Berger	
Fri., Oct. 2	Steve Rasmussen	<b>A Mathematics Education Travelogue in Asia: Dispelling Myths, Opening Dialog</b>
<i>Oct. 15–17</i>	<i>Peoria, IL</i>	<i>ICTM Annual Meeting and Conference</i>
Fri., Nov. 6	Michael Todd Edwards	
Fri., Dec. 11	Millie Johnson	<b>Tracking Mathematical Threads from Early Childhood through College</b>
Fri., Jan. 8	Akihiko Takahashi	
Sat., Jan. 30	York Community H.S.	<b>Conference of Workshops</b>
Fri., Feb. 5	Richard Stalmack	
<i>Mar. 5–7</i>	<i>Atlanta, GA</i>	<i>T<sup>3</sup> International Conference</i>
Fri., Mar. 12	Ken Indeck	
<i>Apr. 21–24</i>	<i>San Diego, CA</i>	<i>2010 NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition</i>
Fri., May 7	Zal Usiskin	<b>The Geometry of Shape and the Shape of Geometry</b>
<i>June 26–27</i>	<i>(see page 4)</i>	<i>USACAS</i>

Send upcoming event items to [ilg@chicagomath.org](mailto:ilg@chicagomath.org) no later than the date of the MMC dinner meeting preceding the issue in which the item should appear. All items are subject to editing.

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



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