

Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
Volume XLIII No. 1, September 2008

The End of High School Math As We Know It

Cathy Seeley
University of Texas at Austin

By PHIL GARTNER

MMC is very pleased to have Cathy Seeley, former President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, kick off our 2008-09 program of speakers. Cathy will explore the big question, "What would it take to transform the teaching of high school mathematics in every classroom?" In terms of curriculum, she will build a case for what she and her associates at the Dana Center feel should be and should not be included in a coherent and rich K-12 mathematics program.

Cathy Seeley has worked for over 35 years in education as a mathematics teacher, district mathematics coordinator, and state mathematics supervisor. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso from 1999 through 2001, Dr. Seeley taught mathematics (and in French!). As mentioned earlier, she served a two-year term as President of NCTM from 2004 through 2006. Currently, Cathy Seeley is a senior fellow with the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas, working on state and national policy issues related to school mathematics.

Give yourself a great jump-start into the new school year and enjoy a thought-provoking exploration of what high school mathematics could be. As any of you who have seen Dr. Seeley speak before already know, she is an outstanding and entertaining presenter. Come early for complimentary appetizers courtesy of Texas Instruments.

Let's have a great opening turnout and give Cathy a warm Chicago welcome! This will be a fantastic start for what promises to be a very captivating and enjoyable series of speakers this year.



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 5, 2008

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

\$31 for Members, \$37 for Nonmembers

Reserve by Noon, Monday, Sept. 1

reservations@mmcchicago.org or (847)
486-4690, day or night, leave a voicemail.

Points from the Interior

BY PHIL GARTNER

I hope this first issue of *Points & Angles* finds you well and rested after this summer. Last year was a great success with eight great dinner speakers including the Zalman Usiskin finale. We once again ran a tremendous Conference of Workshops. Both the conference and the dinners had strong attendance. MMC once again awarded three scholarships to outstanding high school seniors pursuing careers in mathematics

education. Again, the Filliman family has generously sponsored two of those awards. Thank you to all those involved that help make these events possible and many thanks to departing board member Rich Rukin who served as past-president last year.

There is much more to reflect on from last year, but let us turn to the excitement that this year holds. I am pleased to give you a quick overview of the speaker lineup for 2008-09. A highly-sought speaker with international recognition, Dr. Cathy Seeley is going to begin our year. As has been

the case several times before, a former NCTM president is flying to Chicago to speak to the club. More details of her very interesting talk and her professional background in the preview on the front page.

As autumn rolls around and the calendar turns to October, we welcome Dr. Steve West. He comes

very highly regarded by his T³ colleagues in MMC among other members who have seen him speak. Steve, a Distinguished Teaching Professor of Mathematics Education at the State University of New York, will use Cabri 3-D to investigate some theorems and discover “new” results. Ron Lancaster, editor of NCTM publications and Lecturer in Mathematics Education at the University of Toronto, will intrigue us with his talk on some beautiful connections between probability, music, art, and drama. Ron taught for more than twenty years in public middle and high schools. He has given over 1000 talks. Angela Andrews, professor at National Louis, is the December speaker. She works closely with students for whom math is a challenge and will share with us how some foundational ideas and early interventions can prevent chronic failure in mathematics.

As we all head into the New Year and the weather turns colder, it will be time to hear our very own John Diehl to get us warmed up for the second half of the speaker program. John will extol the virtues of e , i , and 2π . You will be amazed at what these numbers can do. MMC will be welcoming Professor Tony Peressini from the University of Illinois in February for his talk on the paper roll problem. He will approach this question in a variety of ways that will be sure to delight you mathematically. Claran Einfeldt, educational consultant and member of the State Board, has an appropriate title for a Friday the 13th—

2008-2009

Sept 5	Cathy Seeley
Oct 3	Steve West
Nov 7	Ron Lancaster
Dec 12	Angela Andrews
Jan 9	John Diehl
Jan 24	MMC Conference
Feb 6	Tony Peressini
Mar 13	Claran Einfeldt
May 8	Nick Jackiw

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“A Math Cursed Life.” MMC will finish the year with a bang. Nick Jackiw, a renowned designer of Geometer’s Sketchpad and highly regarded speaker, will give us a sneak peak at the latest version of GSP. Nick will use this new version, which will not yet have been released to the public, to wow you with some cool mathematics. I would give more detail but Nick is not allowed to talk about the product!

For a user-friendly list of meeting dates, speakers, and talk titles, we’ve enclosed a poster. Please post it and encourage colleagues to join you for these Fridays packed full of collegiality, good food and drink, and stimulating mathematics talks. You might also consider hanging your poster in a local coffee shop or bookstore (just kidding, sort of).

Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual MMC Conference of Workshops. It will be at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools on Saturday, January 24, 2009. Mary Wiltjer and Carol Nenne are still in need of presenters so please fill out the application on the website or in this newsletter right now—it’s due September 19.

I would like to close with the reminder that MMC is just four years away from celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2012-2013. As many of you know, we were the first affiliate of NCTM. You are part of an organization with a long and rich history. That is something to be proud of and let’s enjoy each of these years leading up to our 100th birthday.

New Teacher Incentive

For this school year, 1st and 2nd year teachers who become members of MMC will receive ½ off their second and third dinner meetings! Take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to get involved with a great organization, hear top-notch speakers and meet fellow math teachers from throughout the Chicagoland area.

To participate, cut out the form below, bring it with you to all 3 dinner meetings, and have it signed at the registration desk. You will receive your 2nd dinner meeting for \$16 and your 3rd dinner meeting for only \$15!

Thanks to an anonymous MMC member for generously funding this program.

MMC 2008-09	
Name _____ FOR USE OF MMC REGISTRATION PERSONNEL ONLY	Meeting 1
	Date: _____
	Approved: _____
	Meeting 2
	Date: _____
	Approved: _____
Meeting 3	
Date: _____	
Approved: _____	

Details for Upcoming Events

The Future of High School Mathematics, Washington, DC, September 25–27. Concern about the condition of school mathematics has been expressed in many recent advisory reports and policy recommendations. The Center for Mathematics Education at the University of Maryland, along with “Math Is More” and a group of progressive curriculum development projects, will host a conference of leaders in high school and collegiate mathematics education.

The conference will include presentations and examples of promising innovations produced by extensive research and development programs, and it will provide a forum for shaping the national, state, and local policy debates about appropriate directions for progress in high school mathematics.

<http://www.education.umd.edu/mathed/conference/>

ICTM Annual Meeting and Conference, Peoria, IL, October 16–18. 59th Annual Meeting and Conference, “Connections in the Mathematics Landscape.”

<http://ictm.org/annualmeeting.html>

UCSMP Grades 6–12 User’s Conference, Chicago, IL, November 15–16. This weekend conference is designed for teachers and administrators who teach from UCSMP Grades 6–12 (third edition), are considering UCSMP Grades 6–12 (third edition), use or have

used earlier editions of UCSMP middle and high school materials, or use or have used Everyday Mathematics.

The conference will introduce you to the program and provide overviews of each course, teaching tips, technology usage, the research behind the materials, and more. On Saturday, take an in-depth look at books of your choice, devoting the morning to one text and the afternoon to another. On Sunday, you can attend as many as four sessions on special topics, and pre-register for a one-on-one meeting with a textbook author.

<http://social-sciences.uchicago.edu/ucsmp/Nov08.html>

Membership Dues Increase

BY MARY WILTJER

As costs have increased for everyone, MMC has found that it is not excluded from inflation. To continue to offer great programs and opportunities to our members while covering expenses, the MMC Board has approved a change in the cost of membership. A standard one-year membership now costs \$27 (with discounted prices for purchasing two or three years at a time of \$50 and \$70 respectively). The retired membership cost is now \$20 a year, and the first-year teacher membership cost is \$15. A student membership is also \$15, but it will only be given as an electronic membership. Having discussed the options, the MMC Board felt that this was a necessary change. We know no one likes price hikes, but this is the first increase in membership dues in 12 years.

NEW TEACHER INCENTIVE CARD

IMPORTANT DATES 2008-09

- Friday, September 5th—Cathy Seeley
- Friday, October 3rd—Steve West
- Friday, November 7th—Ron Lancaster
- Friday, December 12th—Angela Andrews
- Friday, January 9th—John Diehl
- Saturday, January 24th—Conference of Workshops
- Friday, February 6th—Tony Peressini
- Friday, March 13th—Claran Einfeldt
- Friday, May 8th—Nick Jackiw

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2008 MMC Scholarship Winners

BY ISMAEL ZAMORA

The task for picking an MMC scholarship winner is a difficult but rewarding one. It is made even more difficult when you have so many great candidates from which to choose. Thank you to all the nominating teachers for such a great pool of candidates to choose from. Thank you also to the Filliman family for their continued support of MMC.

Daniel Kowalski, a senior at Lake Park High School, was this year's MMC Scholarship winner. He plans to attend Princeton in the fall and study Mathematics or Psychology-Neuroscience. Thank you to Bill Roloff for nominating him.

Cheri Svoboda, a senior at Romeoville High School, was one of the Filliman Scholarship winners. She will be attending Loyola in the fall and plans to

pursue Math Education. Thank you to Dan Hall for nominating her.

Jennifer Krzyszkowski, a senior at Lockport High School, was our second Filliman Scholarship winner. She will be attending Eastern Illinois University in the fall and will be studying Math Education. Thank you to Arlene Fassola for nominating her.

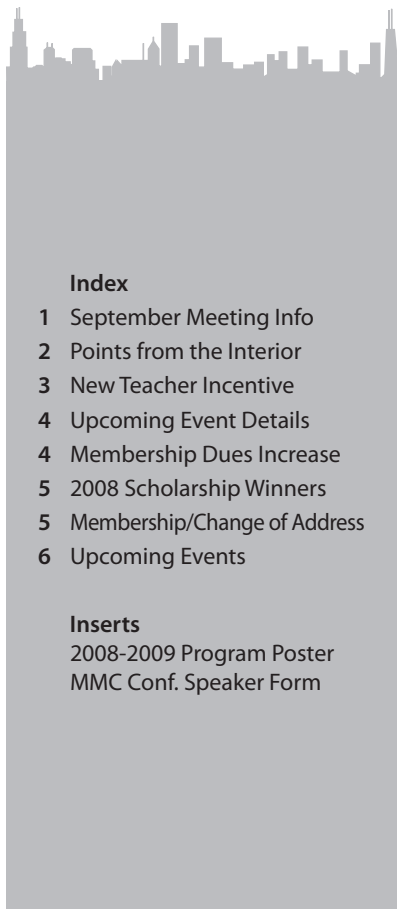
Thanks also to Texas Instruments for their support of MMC and this year's winners. We wish all the winners continued success and hope to greet them again someday as MMC members.

Look for information about the 2009 MMC Scholarship application process in the December 2008 issue.

NAME		<small>PREFERRED CONTACT</small> <small>Check one:</small> <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work	
HOME ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
HOME PHONE	HOME E-MAIL		
EMPLOYER			
WORK ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
WORK PHONE	WORK E-MAIL		
<small>ELECTRONIC-ONLY MEMBERSHIP</small> <small>Check the box below for electronic-only membership. You will receive an email with a direct link to each issue of <i>Points & Angles</i> when it is posted on the web site, often before paper copies are mailed. You will no longer receive <i>Points & Angles</i> by mail.</small>		<small>MEMBERSHIP TYPE</small> <small>Check one:</small>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic-Only Membership		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year (\$27) <input type="checkbox"/> student, 1 yr (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 years (\$50) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st yr teacher, 1 yr (\$15) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 years (\$70) <input type="checkbox"/> retired, 1 yr (\$20)	
<small>FORM USE</small> <small>Check one:</small>		MEMBERSHIP COST \$	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Former Member <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address		<small>DONATIONS</small> SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$	
		SPEAKER FUND \$	
		TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \$	

Make check payable to *MMC*

MMC Membership and Change of Address Form
 Mail completed form and check to:
 415 S. Ridgeland Ave. #2
 Oak Park, IL 60302
 MMC



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Inserts

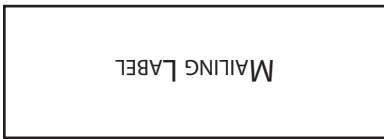
- 2008-2009 Program Poster
- MMC Conf. Speaker Form

Upcoming Events

<p>Fri., Sept. 5 <i>Sept. 25–27</i></p> <p>Fri., Oct. 3 <i>Oct. 16–18</i></p> <p>Fri., Nov. 7 <i>Nov. 15–16</i></p> <p>Fri., Dec. 12</p> <p>Fri., Jan. 9</p> <p>Sat., Jan. 24</p> <p>Fri., Feb. 6</p> <p>Fri., Mar. 13</p> <p>Fri., May 8</p>	<p>Cathy Seeley <i>(see page 4)</i></p> <p>Steve West <i>(see page 4)</i></p> <p>Ron Lancaster <i>(see page 4)</i></p> <p>Angela Andrews</p> <p>John Diehl</p> <p>U. of C. Lab</p> <p>Tony Peressini</p> <p>Claran Einfeldt</p> <p>Nick Jackiw</p>	<p>The End of High School Math As We Know It <i>The Future of High School Mathematics</i></p> <p>Discovering Theorems using Cabri 3-D <i>ICTM Annual Meeting and Conference</i></p> <p>Mozart’s Dice Game and Other Beautiful Connections between Probability, Music, Art, and Drama <i>UCSMP Grades 6–12 User’s Conference</i></p> <p>Focusing on the Big Ideas in Mathematics—Right from the Beginning <i>e, i, 2π, oh! Come Explore What These Numbers Can Do</i></p> <p>MMC Conference of Workshops 2009 Comparing Solutions of the Paper Roll Problem A Math Cursed Life Using the Newest (Yet-to-be-Released!) Version of Geometer’s Sketchpad to Improve Learning</p>
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Send upcoming event items to 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.



METROPOLITAN MATHEMATICS CLUB OF CHICAGO
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