

Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
Volume XLIV No. 1, September 2009

Coincidences, Chaos, and All That Math Jazz

Edward Burger
Williams College

BY PAUL CHRISTMAS

MMC is very pleased to have Edward Burger as our opening speaker for the 2009-2010 school year. His talks entertain, motivate and always present mathematics in unexpected ways. Edward is Professor of Mathematics and Gaudino Scholar at Williams College. He is the author of over 30 research articles and 12 books including "The Heart of Mathematics: An invitation to effective thinking" (winner of a 2001 Robert W. Hamilton Book Award).

Burger was awarded the 2000 Northeastern Section of the MAA Award for Distinguished Teaching and 2001 MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo National Award for Distinguished Teaching of Mathematics. The MAA named him the 2001-2003 Polya Lecturer. In 2004 he was awarded Mathematical Association of America's Chauvenet Prize and in 2006 he was a recipient of the Lester R. Ford Prize. He was one of three Finalists for the 2010 Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching by Baylor University.

Burger is an Associate Editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly* and *Math Horizons* and served on the Board of Trustees of the Educational Advancement Foundation. In 2006, Reader's Digest listed Burger in their annual "100 Best of America" as America's Best Math Teacher.

You do not want to miss this talk. Organize a department MMC outing that will definitely get your school year started on a high note. If you can't get you department to come, bring a first or second year teacher and get them started on the new teacher incentive. Let's set a record for opening night attendance!



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
(630) 907-5023

\$34 for Members, \$39 for Nonmembers

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

Points from the Interior

By PAUL CHRISTMAS

Encouragement, motivation, opportunity to network, and new ideas provided through NCTM, ICTM, and MMC have helped keep me excited about teaching.

Now to the task I have looked forward to since March 2008—composing the *Points from the Interior*. Since I have a writing phobia, a friend whose undergraduate degree is English volunteered to ghost write my monthly offering, but I refused. The wit and humor would give her—oops—give it away. As I started, I looked for guidance in the last two September issues. Thank heavens for the Points and Angles archives at *MMCCChicago.org*! Both Conrad Wayne and Phil Gartner gave an overview of the programs they had planned for the year. Bad news (for me), I did that in the June Issue. I have big shoes

to fill. Last year's program was outstanding starting with NCTM Past President Cathy Seeley's critique of the current status of secondary education and ending with Nick Jackiw's introduction to Sketchpad 5. Give Phil Gartner the pat on the back he deserves!

While you are thanking Phil, also thank Bob Ruzich for his service on the board for the past three years. Bob chose not to run for a second term on the

board to give some new blood an opportunity to run for the position. He has served as the NCTM/ICTM representative and also helped provided the LCD projector for each meeting last year. He has promised to continue to serve MMC in anyway possible.

We also owe Ron Vavrinek, our past treasurer, an enormous THANK YOU. This past year he gathered filed all the needed paper work for a sales tax-exemption number. On May 22, the important letter from Springfield was issued. It will save us 11% on our dinner costs. With the tax exemption and the increase in the meal cost, MMC will be able to operate in the black again.

I want to encourage everyone to make the dinner reservations at the MMC website. You can list the names of all you are reserving for and you will get a conformation each time. The email will also give Don Porzio, the President-elect a record of special meal requests—vegetarian or (during Lent) fish. It is very helpful to email a cancellation even if it is Friday morning when a conflict arises. Don needs to give a final count on Tuesday morning. It is extremely stressful for the President-elect when we are below

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Points & Angles, published nine times per school year, is the official publication of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago. Founded in 1913, the Metropolitan Mathematics Club is the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics' first affiliate. The official club website: <http://mmchicago.org/>

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the guaranteed number at 6:30.

Finally, my goal for this year is to get more people involved, especially new mathematics teacher. The encouragement, motivation, opportunity to network, and new ideas provided through involvement with NCTM, ICTM, and of course MMC are just a few of the factors that have helped keep me excited about teaching (and I still love teaching mathematics). I am pleased MMC has again decided to help make it more affordable to attend the meetings by providing the new teacher incentive. A first or second year teacher who attends one meeting and joins will be able to attend two subsequent meetings this year at half price. The meetings do NOT have to be consecutive. I also plan to have at least two new teacher Saturday morning meetings this year. These sessions have been very well received in the past.

I am excited about the programs I have lined up for this year. From Edward Burger through Zal Usiskin, each program promises to help make your school year a great year. I look forward to seeing each of you (at every meeting)!!


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.

Name _____		FOR USE OF MMC REGISTRATION PERSONNEL ONLY		MMC 2009-10	
Meeting 1	Date: _____	Approved: _____			
Meeting 2	Date: _____	Approved: _____			
Meeting 3	Date: _____	Approved: _____			





Sixth U.S.A. Conference on CAS

June 26–27, 2010


New Trier H.S.
Northfield, IL

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

NEW TEACHER INCENTIVE CARD

IMPORTANT DATES 2009-10

Friday, September 11th—Ed Burger
 Friday, October 2nd—Steve Rasmussen
 Friday, November 6th—Edwards & Phelps
 Friday, December 11th—Millie Johnson
 Friday, January 8th—Akihiko Takahashi
 Saturday, January 30th—Conference of Workshops
 Friday, February 5th—Richard Stalmack
 Friday, March 12th—Ken Indeck
 Friday, May 7th—Zal Usiskin

 NCTM
 Club of
 Mathematics
 Metropolitan
 Chicago
 1913

Even More Upcoming Events

ICTM Annual Meeting and Conference, Peoria, IL, October 15–17. 60th Annual Meeting and Conference, “Innovations in Teaching Mathematics.”
<http://ictm.org/annualmeeting.html>

T³ International Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 5–7. TI combines the Georgia peach and the teacher’s apple to provide a unique combination of instruction in Atlanta. Learn from experienced educators and participate in a wide variety of hands-on sessions. Count on networking with educators from across the U.S., Canada and around the world. Receive lots of classroom activities and ideas, along with the latest news on TI technology. The T³ International Conference in Atlanta is a sweet deal because sessions are numerous, ranging from those aimed at beginning users of technology to experienced users, at all subject levels and grade levels; training focuses on the appropriate use of technology to help students succeed in science and math at all levels; and many sessions are interactive and encourage student-centered learning.
http://education.ti.com/educationportal/sites/US/nonProductMulti/pd_conferences_atlanta.html

2010 NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition, San Diego, CA, April 21–24. Join thousands of mathematics educators for the NCTM 2010 Annual Meeting and Exposition! The meeting will focus on the theme of Connections: Linking Concepts and Context. Get blown away by the valuable teaching knowledge and tools you’ll gain when you attend NCTM’s 88th Annual Meeting. The meeting will address the challenges that teachers face every day, including: engaging and motivating students, addressing diverse learning styles, balancing state testing and student understanding, using technology in the classroom, and more! You’ll also be able to learn from more than 700 presentations and experience the latest teaching products in the exhibit hall. Return to the classroom energized and excited to teach!
<http://www.nctm.org/sandiego>

MMC Notice

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

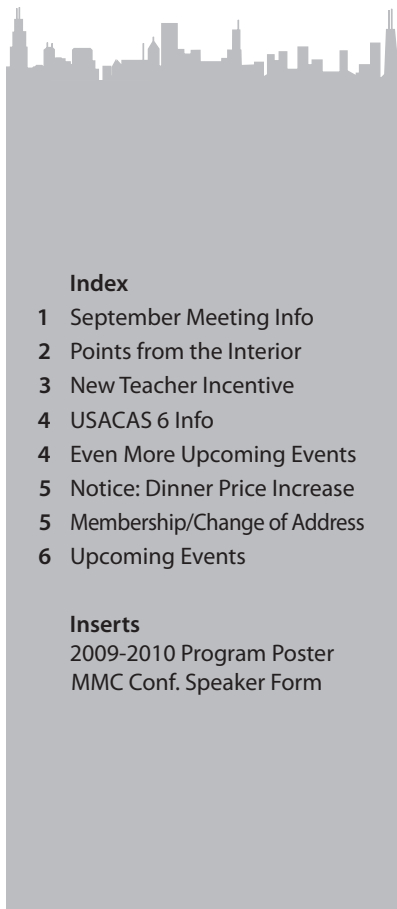
NAME		PREFERRED CONTACT Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work	
HOME ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
HOME PHONE		HOME E-MAIL	
EMPLOYER			
WORK ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	
WORK PHONE		WORK E-MAIL	
ELECTRONIC-ONLY MEMBERSHIP Check the box below for electronic-only membership. 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.		MEMBERSHIP TYPE Check one:	
<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)	
FORM USE Check one:		MEMBERSHIP COST \$	
<input type="checkbox"/> New Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal		DONATIONS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Former Member <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address		SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$	
		SPEAKER FUND \$	
		TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK \$	

Make check payable to *MMC*

Mail completed form and check to:

MMC
 2408 Glenview Rd.
 Glenview, IL 60025

MMC Membership and Change of Address Form



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Inserts

- 2009-2010 Program Poster
- MMC Conf. Speaker Form

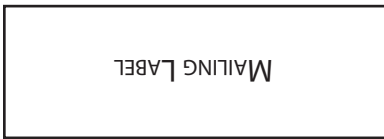
Upcoming Events

Fri., Sept. 11	Ed Berger	Coincidences, Chaos, and All That Math Jazz
Fri., Oct. 2	Steve Rasmussen	A Mathematics Education Travelogue in Asia: Dispelling Myths, Opening Dialog
Fri., Nov. 6	Edwards & Phelps	Nspired Connections from Outside the Box: Uncovering New Ideas with Technology
Fri., Dec. 11	Millie Johnson	Tracking Mathematical Threads from Early Childhood through College
Fri., Jan. 8	Akihiko Takahashi	Improving Mathematics Teaching and Learning through Lesson Studies
Sat., Jan. 30	York Community H.S.	Conference of Workshops
Fri., Feb. 5	Richard Stalmack	Physics and Mathematics—Two Different Subjects Sharing a Common Language
Fri., Mar. 12	Ken Indeck	The Most Misunderstood Concept in Geometry
Fri., May 7	Zal Usiskin	The Geometry of Shape and the Shape of Geometry

(See also "Even More Upcoming Events" on page 4)

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
 c/o MMC
 2408 Glenview Rd.
 Glenview, IL 60025



2009–2010 Program

September 11, 2009—Ed Burger

Coincidences, Chaos, and All That Math Jazz

October 2, 2009—Steve Rasmussen

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The Geometry of Shape and the Shape of Geometry

5:30 p.m. Doors Open; 6:00 p.m. Social Hour; 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Talk

Fountain Blue Banquets & Convention Center, 2300 Mannheim Rd., Des Plaines, IL

Make your reservations and special meal requests no later than the Monday before the meeting—

reservations@mmcchicago.org or (630) 907-5023, day or night, leave a voicemail.

Visit the MMC website at <http://mmcchicago.org/> for more information.

**Speaker's Information Form for the
MMC Conference of Workshops 2010
York Community High School
Saturday, January 30, 2010**

***Please give information for ALL speakers. Addresses and emails are very important for all speakers.
If needed, fill out a second form for additional co-speakers.**

Lead Speaker:

Name: _____ School: _____

School phone: _____ and Home phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Co-Speaker:

Name: _____ School: _____

e-mail: _____

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Title: _____

Brief Description for Program Book:

Approximate Grade Band(s):

**(Participants will use this information to determine their sessions. Grades: _____ through _____
Please select/mark the grade levels for which your session is appropriate.)**

EQUIPMENT NEEDS: Every room will have a chalkboard or whiteboard. Please indicate any additional needs below, *including overhead projectors*, being very specific. If you are planning to use a computer projection device and are able to bring your own, we would appreciate it! Workshops have a maximum capacity of 28 participants.

Calculator sets (30 calculators and viewscreen):

TI-84 TI-89 TI-Nspire TI-Nspire CAS Other(specify) _____

Overhead projector Computer Lab I will bring my own computer and projector Single Computer and projector Computer projector only (I will bring my own computer) Internet access

Other equipment needs (be specific): _____

Are you willing to repeat your session? Yes No

Are you planning to stay for lunch (on MMC of course!) Yes No

Please email to: mmconference@mmcchicago.org or mail to: MMC
(note: form may be found on website www.mmcchicago.org) 3817 S. Lombard
Please complete, save and email) Cicero, IL 60804-4132

Please return by September 18th.