

Points & Angles

Newsletter of the Metropolitan Mathematics Club of Chicago
Volume XLIV No. 2, October 2009

A Mathematics Education Travelogue in Asia: Dispelling Myths, Opening Dialog

Steven Rasmussen
Key Curriculum Press

By DON PORZIO

MMC is pleased to welcome Steve Rasmussen, cofounder and president of Key Curriculum Press, as our second speaker this year. The mathematical travelogue referred to in the title draws from Steve's experiences in a dozen Asian countries, though he will focus on Vietnam and India for this talk. While many in the U.S. Strive to emulate what they think is happening educationally in Asia, the simplistic sound bites and reports of test scores on international exams don't tell the real story. In this travelogue, the pictures are personal, the experiences are singular, and the observations are idiosyncratic. But the human face of mathematics education that emerges helps dispel myths and stereotypes about the conditions and work of our colleagues in Asia who struggle with issues not unlike our own.

Steve has degrees in mathematics and mathematics education from Temple University. He taught secondary mathematics for seven years in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Emeryville, California. He was editor-in-chief at Key Curriculum Press until 1995, was a leader of the development team for Geometer's Sketchpad, and was the editor of *Discovering Geometry: An Inductive Approach*. He has served as the principal investigator on National Science Foundation projects to support teachers using technology in teaching geometry and to promote discovery and cooperative learning through professional development. He has given hundreds of workshops on geometry and other topics at local, state, regional, national, and international professional meetings.



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, October 2, 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. 28

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

Points from the Interior

By PAUL CHRISTMAS

In the last couple of paragraphs of my last *Points from the Interior*, I mentioned my goal this year is to get more new teachers involved in MMC activities. I should have also said that I want to work to provide opportunities for all teachers to network with teachers outside their schools and districts. Over the past decades, school districts, because of budget constraints, have cut back on financial support for teachers to attend professional activities outside of their school and school district. Most professional development has become "in house" with emphasis on raising scores

The networking that occurred at the conferences through dinners with new friends, chats between sessions, and yes, even having a drink or two with colleagues at night have left an indelible mark on me.

on state tests. The department discussions have become "What problems do we assign in this section?" and "When are you giving the chapter test?" and "What are good activities we can use to prepare my students for the state tests?"

I believe we should be asking each other, "Why are we teaching this topic?," "Without imposing the calculator or computer on the curriculum, can we use technology to help students better learn this concept?," and "What are new ideas about teaching and learning on this topic that have been presented at professional conferences?"

As I reflect on my teaching career, I am grateful

that I taught in a district that encouraged and financially supported me to attend ICTM and NCTM conferences, MMC Friday night meetings and the Conference of Workshops, and workshops at Exeter Academy and Berkeley (Key Curriculum sponsored). My first year teaching at Elk Grove High School, I attended the ICTM annual meeting, a NCTM regional conference, and the NCTM annual meeting. After that I was hooked on the teaching of mathematics. I always came from those meetings with a couple of new ideas that I could not wait to try out in my classroom and share with others in the department.

The networking that occurred at the conferences through dinners with new friends, chats between sessions, and yes, even having a drink or two with colleagues at night have left an indelible mark on me. I am sure I would have left mathematics teaching if it were not for these experiences. I still want to share new ideas—in fact, I am kidded by friends when they see me at a conference or a meeting with my laptop open, showing someone something new I just learned.

One of my favorite memories of the MMC days at the Como Inn is having a glass of wine in the beautiful bar with a new friend (who at first knew me as Pablo Navidad). We spent an hour or so after several meetings talking about teaching math. We talked about the use of calculators, a new idea I learned about testing, and the new course she had developed for

Points & Angles, Volume XLIV

Number 2, October 2009

Correspondence may be directed to the editor:

Isaac Greenspan
Chicago Math, NFP
1400 Devon Ave., Suite 344
Chicago, IL 60660
ilg@chicagomath.org



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/>

Board of Directors

Paul Christmas (2008-2011)
President
Buffalo Grove H.S. (retired), Buffalo Grove

Phil Gartner (2007-2010)
Past President
Glenbrook South H.S., Glenview

Sheila Hardin (2009-2010)
Treasurer
Oak Park & River Forest H.S., Oak Park

Ismael Zamora (2007-2010)
Scholarship Chair
Hinsdale South H.S., Darien

Ilene Hamilton (2008-2011)
Community Relations/Development
Stevenson H.S. (retired), Lincolnshire

Lisa Parker (2009-2012)
NCTM/ICTM Representative
Lincoln-Way Central H.S.

George Pryjma (2009-2010)
Historian
Northeastern Illinois Univ., Chicago

Don Porzio (2009-2012)
President-Elect
Illinois Math and Science Acad., Aurora

Steve Viktora (2008-2011)
Secretary
New Trier H.S., Winnetka

Mary Wiltjer (2007-2010)
Membership Coord./Conference Co-Chair
Glenbrook South H.S., Glenview

Carol Nenne (2007-2010)
Conference Co-Chair
Lemont H.S., Lemont

Jenny Wexler (2009-2012)
Board Liaison
New Trier H.S., Winnetka

Isaac Greenspan (2008-2011)
Points & Angles Editor
Univ. of Chicago, Chicago

Dan Hall (2009-2012)
York Community H.S.

Addison Trail High School. It was so motivating to hear someone talk about successes and failure when trying out new things.

It is so important that we share with others the necessity of being involved with professional organizations (especially MMC!!!). Since teaching is the second most private thing we do behind closed doors, it doesn't take long for a new teacher to only teach as they were taught when they are not exposed to the outside world of mathematics education. Bring a new teacher or an uninvolved colleague to MMC. Introduce them to the many Giants in math education that are in attendance at every MMC meeting. Offer to help them with some of the silly jobs that we all have had to do so those tasks can't be used as an excuse for coming. Offer to pay for their membership fees so they will get *Points & Angles* and they can pay the member price for their dinner. Remind them that every first or second year teacher who attends pays full price for the first meal and half price for the meals the next two meetings they attend (not necessarily consecutive).

I invite you to share with me (ptc3144@aol.com) things that you have done that have helped get people involved. I will pass them on! **Help me achieve my goal of getting more people involved.**

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 and 3rd dinner meetings for only \$17!

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

Name _____		MMC 2009-10	
FOR USE OF MMC REGISTRATION PERSONNEL ONLY	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 USACAS.ORG

Speaker proposals now being accepted at <http://usacas.org/speak>

Board Report 27 August 2009

By STEVE VIKTORA

The Board of Directors met on 27 August 2009. Most of the meeting was devoted to routine matters.

Paul Christmas reported that the club now has a sales tax exemption from the state. This should save the club two to three thousand dollars per year, helping to prevent our losing as much money as last year. The Board members also discussed other ways to bring the budget in balance.

Mary Wiltjer reported a club membership of 455, of whom 36 are students, 49 are retired, 10 are first-year teachers, and 29 are e-members. Although this is a drop of 119 members since the last Board meeting, Mary explained that this is a regular phenomenon and that membership should soon begin to grow.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 11 November 2009 at 6:00 P.M. Members of the club are welcome to attend any Board meeting, but please contact Paul Christmas at ptc3144@aol.com before 4 November if you plan to attend. Because this is a dinner meeting, you would be expected to pay for your meal.

Sat, Jan 30:
MMC Conference
of Workshops
York Comm. HS
Elmhurst, IL

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—Akiniko Takahashi
 Saturday, January 30th—Conference of Workshops
 Friday, February 5th—Richard Stalmack
 Friday, March 12th—Ken Indeck
 Friday, May 7th—Zal Usiskin

Metropolitan
 Club of
 Mathematics
 Chicago
 NCTM
 Charter
 1913

Even More Upcoming Events

Mathematics Educators Exploring Computer Algebra Systems (MEECAS) Meetings, New Trier High School, Northfield Campus, 9AM–12PM:

Making the CAS Nspire your school calculator, September 26. Phil Gartner, Glenbrook South mathematics instructional supervisor and Steve Viktora, New Trier math department chair.

More Nspiring CAS problems, November 7. Michael Todd Edwards and Steve Phelps.

Actual CAS lessons we have used, February 6. TBA.

Workshop Challenge, April 10. Writing CAS questions for high-stakes tests.
<http://meecas.org/>

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

TI 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. Receive lots of classroom activities and ideas, along with the latest news on TI technology.
http://education.ti.com/education-portal/sites/US/nonProductMulti/pd_conferences_atlanta.html

2010 NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition, San Diego, CA, April 21–24. Connections: Linking Concepts and Context. 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.
<http://www.nctm.org/sandiego>

USACAS6, Northfield, IL, June 26–27. Sixth U.S.A. Conference on CAS.
<http://usacas.org/>

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Former Member <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address		DONATIONS	
		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



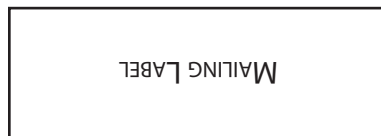
Upcoming Events

Fri., Oct. 2	Steve Rasmussen	A Mathematics Education Travelogue in Asia: Dispelling Myths, Opening Dialog
<i>Oct. 15-17</i>	<i>Peoria, IL</i>	<i>ICTM Annual Meeting and Conference</i>
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 Learn- ing through Lesson Studies
Sat., Jan. 30	York Community H.S.	Conference of Workshops
Fri., Feb. 5	Richard Stalmack	Physics and Mathematics—Two Different Sub- jects 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

Since 2009 was such a huge success,

The MMC Conference of Workshops is back in 2010.

To repeat the excellence,

WE NEED YOU TO PRESENT!!

**The conference will be on Saturday, January 30th
at York Community High School
in Elmhurst, Illinois**

- Workshop format: 75-minute sessions where participants are actively involved.
- Looking for speakers from all grades K – 16.
- New speakers are welcome.
- Co-presentations are encouraged.
- Various topics needed.
- Xerox this and give it to other potential speakers.
- We'll have coffee, carbohydrates, and chalk. What else could a workshop need? You!!
- Have questions? Contact Mary or Carol at MMCCONFERENCE @MMCCHICAGO .ORG .
- Fill out the speaker form online at MMCCHICAGO .ORG or on the other side of this page & return it by September ~~18~~th .30th (extended!)

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

***Please type the required information for ALL speakers. Email addresses 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: _____
School phone: _____ and Home phone: _____
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 the appropriate grade levels, for ex: Grades: 5 through 8.)**

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): (Check all appropriate boxes)

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 return by September 30th 2010.
(extended!)

****Please save this completed form with the format:**

lastname-firstname (ex: Descartes-Rene)

for the lead speaker and attach it to an email.

Send the email to: mmcconference@mmcchicago.org

or print form and mail to: MMC
3817 S. Lombard
Cicero, IL 60804

THANK YOU!