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(TALKING LEAF)

SDCTM SPRING 2003 NEWSLETTER

Message from the President

Jean Gomer

“Hooray, Hooray, It now is May!” As a young teacher, I had a colleague who introduced me to this piece of poetry. It is much longer, but the years have taken their toll on my memory. What has remained is the context in which he produced this rhyme on an annual basis. He truly felt that May was a time to celebrate many things. First and foremost in his mind were the accomplishments of the school year which was coming to an end. For all of us, it should be a joy to reflect on the differences we see in the young people in our classes as we compare them with the way they entered in the fall. If the difference is not positive, maybe we need to reflect on what we can do to ensure a positive growth in our students next year.

He also felt May was a time to celebrate our own personal and professional growth. He was truly a role model for life-long learning long before that was an educational catch phrase. Belonging to a professional organization that furthered his professional goals was an important piece of his life. Obviously, I agree with that philosophy. He also felt that in order to be a good teacher, an individual had to grow spiritually and intellectually; and when you cease to grow, your effectiveness as a teacher declines. Even though he has been gone for many years, on May 1, I think of Mr. R. and reflect on what makes me a good teacher and what could make me a better one.

In the last month, I had the opportunity to attend NCTM's Annual Meeting in San Antonio. That was the perfect occasion for professional, personal, and spiritual growth. 1200 sessions, 16,000 math teachers, and the

beautiful surroundings revitalized me in so many ways. Spending the week with my sister and my “best math friend” also added to my personal renewal. I only wish you all could have been there.

But, you all can be at SDCTM's next professional development event—the summer symposium. It will be held Aug. 8, 2003 at Roosevelt High School. This year's topic will be appropriate use of calculators K-16. Registration information will be sent to principals and SDCTM members in May. Information is also available on our website www.sdctm.org. See you there.

Roxie Ahlbrecht Receives Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching

Roxie Ahlbrecht, a second grade teacher at Robert Frost Elementary in Sioux Falls, has been selected as South Dakota's Presidential Awardee for Excellence in Mathematics Teaching for 2002.

Ahlbrecht, a teacher in the Sioux Falls School System for 26 years, was honored in Washington, DC as one of the nation's top mathematics teachers. This award is the nation's highest honor for mathematics teacher. The awards program is administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House.

These teachers are national role models for educators to emulate; for students to admire; and for parents, administrators, and communities to nurture. PAEMST Awardees have been shown to devote more time to professional development, to incorporate innovative approaches into their classroom teaching and to

be more likely to use computers and other technologies in their classrooms.

The 2003 Applications for the Secondary Award were due May 1, 2003. The **2004** awards will be for **elementary mathematics teachers**. The nomination forms as well as the applications will be available on line at www.nsf.gov/pa soon after May 1, 2003. Fill out a nomination for a deserving teacher in your area and mail it to Diana McCann, State Coordinator, 41876 Apple Tree Road, Springfield, South Dakota 57062.

Northern State University's 50th Annual Mathematics Contest

The 50th Annual Mathematics Contest was held at Northern State University on Wednesday, April 16, 2003. There were approximately 1150 students from 60 schools in attendance. Team trophies were awarded to Jamestown in Class A and Warner in Class B.

Student winners in each division included:

Elementary Algebra 1. Karman Lee (Simmons Middle School Aberdeen); 2. Michael Ginsbach (Hankinson); 3. Leah Marnette (Warner); 4. Amber Brodersen (Wolsey); and 5. Tanya Butler (Warner)

Geometry 1. Jacob Fuhrman (Aberdeen Christian); 2. Shannon Negaard (Jamestown); 3. John Miller (Faulkton); 4. Melanie Vedvei (Lake Preston); and 5. Austin Schwan (Warner)

Advanced Algebra 1. Desiree Jager (Hoven); 2. Darcy Brandenburg (Edgeley); 3. Lisa Kalt (Warner); 4. Tania Mittleider (Jamestown); 5. Jordan Ryckman (Warner)

Senior Division 1. Chris Kulesa (Webster); 2. Cody Nystrom (Lake Preston); 3. Sam Braun (Warner); 4. Alex Rodermacher (Edgeley); 5. Paul Kanzenbach (Great Plains Lutheran)

Summer AP Calculus Workshop

The Advanced Placement Summer Institute together with SDSU is offering a summer workshop on AP Calculus June 16-20, 2003, MTWRF 9:00-5:00 on the SDSU campus.

The Institute will cover the material for AB and BC Calculus and strategies for preparing students for the AB and BC calculus exams.

The Institute will be co-taught by Dr. Ross Abraham, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, and Mark J. Howell, an experienced high school AP Calculus teacher. For more information, contact: Kenneth L. Yocom, Ph.D., Head, Phone: (605) 688-6196 Email: Kenneth_Yocom@sdstate.edu or visit the web site at <http://www3.sdstate.edu/Academics/CollegeOfEngineering/MathematicsandStatistics/FacultyStaff/YocomDrKenL/>

Chaos and Fractals for K-12 Teachers

The SDSU Mathematics Department will be offering a one-week, two credit workshop June 23-27 on the Brookings SDSU campus. The subject of the workshop will be "Chaos and Fractals for K-12 Teachers". Participants will learn about the mathematics behind chaos and fractals, free and/or inexpensive software for studying chaos and fractals, and how to integrate all of this into the K-12 mathematics classroom. For more information, contact Kurt Cogswell at (605) 688-6225 or kurt_cogswell@sdstate.edu, or visit the web site at <http://learn.sdstate.edu/cogswelk/SummerWorkshop/SummerWorkshopInfoPage.htm>.

Summer Courses at USD

Two graduate courses in mathematics will be offered on the campus of The University of South Dakota: a three credit hour course on difference equations and a two credit hour course on probability and statistics. Both courses are scheduled for the second session (June 9-July 3). For additional information, contact Curt Olson at colson@usd.edu or at 677-5262.

USD Merten Hasse Math Contest

The 48th Annual Merten Hasse Math Contest was held on the USD campus on Saturday, April 26. Students from 17 schools participated. Top place finishers in the large

school division were Yankton High School, 1st place; Sioux City Heelan High School, 2nd place; Sioux City Herbert Hoover Middle School, 3rd place; and Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School, 4th place. In the small school division, the top finishers were Crofton High School, 1st place; Beresford High School, 2nd place; Lawton-Bronson Community School, 3rd place; and Elk Point-Jefferson High School, 4th place.

Superior ratings in each division were: Small Schools Algebra I, Anthony Oberle (Sioux City St. Michael) and Mary Burroughs (Lawton-Bronson); Small Schools Geometry, Jenny Flammang (Lawton-Bronson) and Justin Schmidt (Elk Point-Jefferson); Small Schools Algebra II, Seth McGill (Beresford) and Jessica Jelsma (Bon Homme); Small Schools Precalculus, Tyler Schiferl (Crofton) and Aron Merchen (Crofton); Small Schools Calculus, Erica Messersmith (Crofton) and Amanda Wookman (Crofton); Large Schools Algebra I, Matt Folchert (Hoover Middle School) and Kyle Merrill (Hoover Middle School); Large Schools Geometry, Becky Somer (Yankton) and Jordan Burger (Heelan); Large Schools Algebra II, Matt Ray (Roosevelt) and Austin Deck (Heelan); Large Schools Precalculus, Shaun Sawtell (Yankton) and Dan Sanow (Yankton); Large Schools Calculus, Drew Klein (Iowa City West) and Adam Uhl (Heelan).

Scholarship winners were Jimmy Taylor (Vermillion), Nick Datzov (Yankton) and Mara McGill (Beresford).

Congratulations to all the place winners. You can find the results and look at some pictures from the contest on the web at <http://www.usd.edu/math>. For information on the 2004 contest, contact Dan Van Peurse.

SDCTM Fall General Meeting

The SDCTM fall general meeting will be held August 8, 2003, at Roosevelt High School beginning at 10:00 a.m. (Room E-119, use the east parking lot and entrance.) Door prizes will be awarded and a complimentary lunch will be catered for members at noon. This meeting replaces the general meeting usually held in conjunction with the SDEA conference.

Jim Goehring Scholarship

Early in 2002, we in mathematics education lost a dedicated educator and friend with the death of Jim Goehring, high school mathematics teacher at Bon Homme High School and executive committee member of SDCTM (serving as treasurer and president). With a \$10,000 initial gift, the family of Jim Goehring established a scholarship fund. The SDCTM executive committee wishes to share with you information about the scholarship.

“In honor of Jim’s love and lifetime work, teaching and education, his family established a scholarship in his name. Two scholarships of \$500 will be given annually to two deserving students planning to enroll in college the following fall.”

For more information, or to make a contribution to the James Goehring Scholarship Fund Account, contact Joseph Honner (joe.honner@bartwest.com), 2305 E Tamarac Dr, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

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SDCTM MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION
South Dakota Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Name _____ Date _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
School _____
Subject(s) Taught _____
Telephone (Home) _____ (School) _____

Please check your teaching level, and enclose a check for the appropriate dues. Check should be made payable to SDCTM.

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|--------------------------------------|---------|
| _____ K-6 | \$ 5.00 |
| _____ 7-12 | 10.00 |
| _____ Departmentalized Middle School | 10.00 |
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Send to: Diana McCann
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