

Math Matters

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

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1991 Recipient of the WVCTM Distinguished Service Award Dies in St. Louis



James Edward Dowdy, Ph.D., professor of mathematics at Saint Louis University, died October 4, 2006 at age 72.

Dr. Dowdy was born in San Antonio, Texas, and graduated from Central Catholic High School and St. Mary's University in San Antonio. He held a master's degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

From 1952 to 1964, Dr. Dowdy was a member of the Society of Mary and taught at St. Mary's High School in south St. Louis. He was an assistant professor of mathematics at Ball State University from 1964 to 1966 and rose to the rank of professor at West Virginia University between 1969 and 1994. In 1994 Dr. Dowdy joined the faculty at Saint Louis University.

The WV Student Mathematics Symposium was founded by Professor Dowdy in 1990 to give high-achieving students a chance to learn about novel areas of mathematics. The event focuses on interactive presentations by college faculty.

Source: <http://www.slu.edu/readstory/newslink/7305>

Larry Lamb Retires As State Math Coordinator

On Monday, October 1, Larry Lamb stepped down after 10 years of service as West Virginia's State Mathematics Coordinator. He began his tenure on October 2, 1996. Prior to that position, he was Financial Aid Director at Glenville State College from 1967 to 1974, Mathematics Teacher in Louisville, Kentucky from 1974 to 1984, and Mathematics Teacher at Wheeling Park High School, 1984 to 1996.

Larry took time to reflect upon his time in office and responded to my questions:

What are the most fulfilling accomplishments you have experienced as WV Mathematics Coordinator? I am proudest of the fact that we have created a very large K-16 mathematics community in West Virginia. All counties feel a part of the plan for the future of mathematics. Teachers from across our state have come together to work for what is best for our students. The work ethic of our teachers is phenomenal. The second greatest accomplishment is the unity we have brought to K-12 mathematics and higher education mathematics. No other content can compare with mathematics in the area of K-12 and higher education working together to reach common goals. I am very proud of that.

What are the best things about mathematics education in WV? Teacher dedication in West Virginia is the best you will see in our country. Teachers sincerely want all students to like mathematics and be successful in life using mathematics. Quality professional development encourages learning communities and increased content knowledge for all our West Virginia mathematics teachers. Our teachers have met the challenge head on and continue to move forward.



What are (or were) some of the most difficult challenges of the position? Some of the more difficult challenges have been: securing funding to support an outstanding mathematics program in West Virginia, helping teachers understand that we cannot teach the same way we always did because the students do not learn the same way they always did, developing a plan that will provide professional development in making changes in mathematics for 10,000 mathematics teachers, ensuring quality instructional materials to meet the needs of all students, and writing meaningful content standards and objectives in a way that all teachers will feel comfortable using them.

What have you learned in your tenure as coordinator? Wow! I have learned so much as I reflect on the past 10 years. Learning to work with folks who view the world in different ways has been an educational process for me. I have learned content of mathematics at a greater level due to the necessity of

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(from page 1 "Lamb Retires")

working with all areas of mathematics content. I have learned a tremendous amount from **Terri Collier**, the West Virginia Title I Math Coordinator. I had no elementary background so I depended on her a lot and learned so much from her in the area of elementary mathematics. I think every teacher taught me something. I learned the truth about how our high school students are graduating unprepared for college mathematics. I learned what good professional development really is.

What advice do you give to elementary and mathematics teachers in the state? Never lose sight of the fact that all kids can be successful in mathematics. We must understand that all kids do not learn the same way and we must make adjustments to our instruction accordingly. We cannot continue teaching "the way we were taught."

What do you see in the future for mathematics in West Virginia? I see great things for mathematics in West Virginia. We now have all counties involved in developing a plan to improve math instruction and student achievement. It is exciting to me to see the enthusiasm of teachers and administrators who want the best for all their students. Standards-based instruction is better understood today than ever in the history of our state. West Virginia test scores on NAEP, ACT, and SAT will rise dramatically. It is a great time to be involved in mathematics in West Virginia.

What is in your own future? I want to continue working because I have good health and I think I have something to offer to education. Golf will definitely be a part of my retirement but I hope to continue promoting quality instruction and making positive changes in mathematics for a long time.

Any parting comments? I leave with mixed emotions. On one hand, I understand that ten years is a long time and West Virginia deserves new ideas and new leadership. On the other hand, the teachers and administrators in West Virginia have become a part of my extended family. It is difficult to move on when you have the support of so many good people. I will miss every mathematics teacher and every elementary teacher who teaches mathematics in our state but most importantly, I will miss those special

teachers who worked as an integral part of making it happen and that is the State Math Task Force. In leaving this part of my life, I wish everyone the best because you are the best!

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Larry Lamb for ten years of service as WV State Mathematics Coordinator

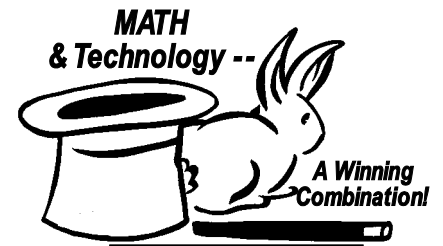
JAPAN FULBRIGHT MEMORIAL FUND TEACHER PROGRAM

The Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program provides U.S. primary and secondary school teachers and administrators with the opportunity to participate in three-week study visits to Japan and to return home with a follow-on plan designed to introduce Japanese culture to American students. Next year, up to 400 teachers and administrators, including participants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, will be selected to participate in the JFMF program.

The JFMF Program features an orientation to Japan followed by visits to primary and secondary schools, teacher training colleges, cultural sites, and industrial facilities. Meetings with Japanese teachers and students and a homestay with a Japanese family are also key components of the program.

Participants return home to share their new knowledge with students, colleagues, and the local community, ensuring that more than just the individual participants profit from the experience.

As an additional benefit to participants, graduate level credits are also available. The deadline for the 2007 JFMF program is December 7, 2006. More information is posted on our website and the online application will be available at www.iie.org/jfmf. Please feel free to contact us at jfmf@iie.org or 1-888-527-2636 with any questions or to request printed materials.



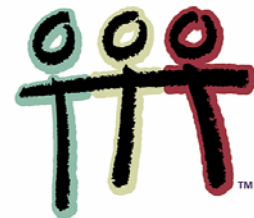
WVCTM Teams Up with T³ for 2007 Conference

The 2007 WVCTM Conference will be held at the Flatwoods Days Inn. This conference will begin at 8:30 on Friday, March 16 and continue through 12 noon on Saturday, March 17.

The T³ Post-Conference will begin there on Saturday, March 17 at 12:30 p.m. and continue through noon on Sunday, March 18. You must register separately for each conference.

Presenters are still needed for both conferences. Do you have successful strategies or wonderful ideas that you would like to share? Perhaps you know of a colleague who has had success in mathematics with his/her students. Please visit www.wvctm.org and download a speaker proposal form and mail it in or send it electronically as soon as possible.

Tonya Hancock, Educational Consultant for Texas Instruments Incorporated, announced that TI will be giving away a \$4000 TI-Navigator system as a door prize to those registered as T³ Post-Conference participants and/or T³ Post-Conference presenters. She stressed that attendees of the T³ Post-Conference will be assured of being on the cutting edge of the latest TI product information.



T³-Teachers Teaching with Technology™

Lou Maynus Named WV State Mathematics Coordinator

October brought the winds of change to mathematics education personnel at the West Virginia Department of Education. Upon the retirement of Larry Lamb, the Office of Instruction hired John Putnam as a new Mathematics Science Partnership Coordinator (MSP). **Lou Maynus** was assigned the Mathematics responsibilities and is now officially the Mathematics and MSP Coordinator. She and John will share the responsibilities of the MSP Coordinator.

Before coming to work at the WV Department of Education, **Lou Maynus** was a teacher for 20 years and her last teaching position was in Fayette County at Collins Middle School, NBCT Adolescence Mathematics for Grades 6 through 8. She was also a member of the Middle Level/Differentiating Instruction Cadre and a MERIT Teacher.

Her latest honor is the 2005 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching. Other awards include Fayette County Middle Level Teacher of the Year, and Fayette County Carla Sweet Memorial Teacher of the Year.

In the midst of assuming new responsibilities, Lou took a minute to discuss her thoughts of mathematics in West Virginia: "I know that mathematics can be learned by all and that there are research based strategies that allow access to higher level mathematics to all students. West Virginia has great educators from IHE to Pre-K. With previous efforts together with our planned current and future efforts, I see great things happening in mathematics in West Virginia."

"My position as State Mathematics Coordinator is to work diligently as your servant leader in the continued pursuit of excellence in the teaching and learning of mathematics in West Virginia."

NUMB3RS on CBS

High school mathematics activities for the current season of NUMB3RS is now available on the "We All Use Math Everyday" website. You can register for a free poster.

<http://www.weallusematheveryday.com/tools/waumed/home.htm>

NCTM Releases *Curriculum Focal Points*

When was the last time you saw mathematics as a headline, above the fold, in the *Wall Street Journal*? The release of the *Curriculum Focal Points* by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics prompted such an event.

John Hechinger, in the September 12, 2006 edition of the *WSJ*, reported in "Arithmetic Problem: New Report Urges Return to Basics in Teaching Math" that, "The nation's math teachers, on the front lines of a 17 year curriculum war, are getting some new marching orders: Make sure that students learn the basics." This misrepresentation of the latest publication from NCTM prompted a stern response from NCTM President, Skip Fennell.

According to the NCTM website: "The *Curriculum Focal Points for Prekindergarten through Grade 8 Mathematics: A Quest for Coherence* extends the Council's leadership of more than twenty-five years by describing an approach to curriculum development that focuses on areas of emphasis within each grade from prekindergarten through grade 8." Rather than reversing the position on mathematics education, the *Curriculum Focal Points* provides "descriptions of the most significant mathematical concepts and skills at each grade level."

Evidently other newspapers across the United States published columns like the one in the *Wall Street Journal*. President Skip Fennell's letters to the editors of the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Rocky Mountain News*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times* can be found on the NCTM website.

You don't have to be a member of NCTM to download the *Curriculum Focal Points* at:

<http://www.nctm.org/focalpoints/default.asp>. Links to all the letters to the editors and other news briefs can be found at: <http://www.nctm.org/focalpoints/news.asp>. The *Wall Street Journal* article is available for a limited time at: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB115802278519360136-search.html?KEYWORDS=arithmetic+problem&COLLECTION=wsjie/6month>

WVCTM Membership Form	
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Member News

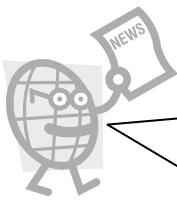
Steve Dellinger became the Assistant Principal of Opequon Elementary School in Martinsburg in September.

Donna Hardy Watson became Chair and Director of Teacher Education at Bluefield College in September and had a problem solving idea published in the October's *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*.

Past President **Libby Frye** sends greetings to WVCTM members: "I'm still enjoying my new life here in Coastal Carolina. From time to time, I run into folks who know some of my old (math) friends. Earlier this year, I met some good people from West Carolina University and through them had a nice e-mail exchange with Ralph DeVane of past NCTM 'fame'. He made many trips to WVCTM meetings in WV in the "good old days" She emphasized, "I really miss my math/math ed. peers in WV." Friends can get in touch with her at: ewfmth@ec.rr.com

WVCTM Executive Committee

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 Past President.....Dr. Michael Mays
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 VP Middle/Jr. Hi.....Sally McCumbee
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 WV Title I Math Coordinator.....Terri Collier



Hey, Do me a favor!
 Send all news of
 interest to or about
 WVCTM members to
 the address below and
 let your light shine!

Return:
 WVCTM Math Matters Newsletter
 Donna Watson, Editor
 216 Parkway
 Bluefield, WV 24701
 dhwatson@frontiernet.net

Upcoming Events

WVCTM Annual Meeting
Math & Technology:
A Winning Combination!
 Flatwoods, WV
 March 16-17, 2007
T³ Post Conference
 March 17-18, 2007

WVCTM Executive Committee
Meetings at 10:00 a.m.
Flatwoods, WV, Days Inn
Saturday, October, 28, 2006
Saturday, February 17, 2007

NCTM Annual Meeting
 Atlanta, Georgia
 March 21-24, 2007
 “Mathematics: Representing
 the Future”

Be thinking ahead...
NCTM Regional Conference
 Richmond, Virginia
 October 11-13, 2007

WVCTM Awards and Grants Opportunities

- * \$400 Golden Holtan Grant
- * Walter E. Regula Teacher in Training Grant
- * Mathematics Teacher of the Year Award (College, High School, Middle/Junior High, and Elementary School)
- * Distinguished Service Award “The Chair”

Forms for each of these can be downloaded at www.wvctm.org.
 Deadline for application of all grants and awards is February 1, 2007. Winners will be announced at the WVCTM banquet on Friday, March 16, 2007.

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