

Math Matters

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS

Volume 25, Number 1

February 2006

Meet the Candidates: WVCTM Election To Be Held at Conference

For the office of
Vice-President: Elementary



Joyce Evans
Teacher, Monogah Elementary School
Marion County



Sheila Pell
Mathematics Facilitator/Trainer
Marshall County

For the office of
Vice-President: High School



Holly Plunkett
Teacher: University High School,
Monongalia County



Cheryl Reger
Teacher: Buckhannon-Upshur County
High School, Upshur County

For the office of
Member at Large



Peggy Baldwin
Curriculum Specialist in Math and
Technology
Wyoming County Schools



Dr. Susan Goodwin, Professor
Fairmont State University
Marion County

Largest prime number ever is found

A 26-year-old graduate student in the US has made mathematical history by discovering the largest known prime number. The new number is 6,320,430 digits long. It took just over two years to find using a distributed network of more than 200,000 computers. Michael Shafer a chemical engineering student at Michigan State University used his office computer to contribute spare processing power to the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search (GIMPS). The project has more than 60,000 volunteers from all over the world taking part. "I had just finished a meeting with my advisor when I saw the computer had found the new prime," Shafer says. Prime numbers are positive integers that can only be divided by themselves and one. Mersenne primes are an especially rare type of prime that take the form $2^p - 1$, where p is also a prime number. The new number can be represented as $2^{20,996,011} - 1$. It is only the 40th Mersenne prime to have ever been found. Source: <http://www.newscientist.com/article.ns?id=dn4438>

Candidates (Cont.)

For the office of
NCTM Representative



Murrel Hoover

Mathematics Specialist for the June Harless Center for Rural Educational Research and Development
Marshall University



Dr. Mary Ellen Komorowski

Professor & Chair
Mathematics & Computer
Science Department
Bethany College

For the office of
WVCTM Historian



Susan White

Teacher, Fairmont Senior High School
Marion County

For the office of
Community Relations



Dr. Jeanne Finstein

President/Director of Development of
Polyhedron Learning Media, Inc. in
Wheeling

WVCTM Membership Form

Name:
Home Address:
Professional/School Address:
Email, if available:
Home Telephone:
Work Telephone:
County:
Position:
School:
Grade Level:
<i>Make checks payable to WVCTM</i> Regular Membership \$15 Student Membership \$5
Amount Paid:
<i>Send form and payment to:</i> Steve Dellinger, WVCTM Treasurer 220 Simply Ashley Court Hedgesville, WV 25427

**View from a First Year
Mathematics Teacher:**

My Comfort Zone

Interview with: Amy Stevenski
Fairview Middle School
Marion County

What classes do you teach this year? Currently, I teach a fifth grade math, 2 - sixth grade maths, 2 periods of math enrichment (This is a nine weeks class. I've had 5/6 and 7/8 graders.), and an eighth grade math class. I also team teach a reading class.

What do you like the best about teaching mathematics? Math is my comfort zone. I've always felt very at ease while learning and teaching math. This comfort has made my life so much easier during this first year. I also think I am enjoying this year because I was so well prepared. In my time as an undergrad, I was able to take advantage of many workshops and conferences where I met other math teachers. At these meetings, I was introduced to many methods in teaching different concepts which has greatly helped me and my students.

What do you like the least? I like least the fact that not all people love math as much as I do. I really do not like the attitude I get from some students who claim that they, "just don't get it because it isn't in their blood." I try to encourage my nonbelievers that we all do in fact use math every day even if we don't realize we are at the time.

What was your biggest surprise? My biggest surprise was probably finding out that classrooms don't magically fill themselves with decorations, manipulatives, calculators, and all of the other educational things I witnessed while student teaching. There is a vast difference in the resources available to a first year teacher and a teacher that has been collecting for 15 years. I have also surprised myself with my newfound ability to ask just about anyone I can for anything that may help my students. When it comes to their students' education, teachers have no pride. I'm living proof.

(Comfort Zone, cont. on Page 3)

(Comfort Zone, Cont. from p. 2)

What has been most helpful to you as a first year teacher? I would have to say that multi colored overhead pens and white board markers have been most helpful. Ask any of my students. Sometimes all you need is a new color to find your mistake. :)

Who has been most helpful to you? I would have to say that my mentor, Pam Kabulski, along with Sharon Tennant, Vicky Parker, Denise Kovar and well, actually every teacher in this school. The staff is amazing here. I can't express that enough. They are all willing to help me and I feel very accepted here. The school hasn't had a brand new teacher in a while so it seems like they have all just taken me under their respective wings. It's like having a big brother/sister there.

What could you use more help with? I could use more help with knowing how to talk to parents. I feel very inadequate in that department. Angry parents are scary.

What types of technology do you have? In my room, I have a classroom set of calculators and the overhead (if that counts as technology?). Available to me in the school, there are televisions/vcr/dvd equipment, graphing calculators, and a classroom computer lab with projector screen.

How is first year different from student teaching? Having my own classroom is extremely different from student teaching. First of all, there isn't anyone in the back of the room to look to for encouragement or for reassurance. You question yourself constantly, asking questions like, "Did I handle that situation right?" and "Why did I let that go on as long as I did?" So many times in student teaching, it was just so helpful to hear someone say, "hey, what you did ... that was good."

Celebrate Pi Day March 14, 2006 3.14, of course

NCTM: Celebrate Pi Day and Einstein's Birthday:

http://www.nctm.org/news/articles/2006_01nb_piday.htm

Math Forum: Make a Pi Day

Necklace:

http://mathforum.org/teachers/middle/activities/pi_day.html

Student Poster Contest Rules

What student wouldn't like to add a little "fun" to mathematics? Here's their chance to do just that in an artful way. They may create and enter a poster in the 2006 WVCTM Student Poster Contest. **Peggy Baldwin** continues to serve as chairman of the poster contest committee. Students must strictly abide by the following rules:

2006 Theme

Math is Mega-Fun

Eligibility

Any student in grades K-12 or in College in West Virginia.

Awards

\$25 for 1st place

\$15 for 2nd place

\$10 for 3rd place

Given in each of the following five levels: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, College

Regulations

- Only one entry is permitted for each individual (no group work).
- Minimum size is 8 ½ by 11 inches
Maximum size is 9 by 12 inches
- Use only hand-drawn lettering.

- A variety of media may be used including: crayon, marker, paint, colored pencils, and pen.
- Do NOT use materials that create a 3-D effect.
- Poster may be in color or in black and white.
- All designs must be original and may not incorporate any computer-generated or copyrighted materials. This includes comic and/or television characters, photographs, magazines, or newspaper illustrations.
- The entry form (shown below) MUST be completed and pasted or taped to the back of each poster.
- Each WVCTM Teacher Sponsor may send 5 posters (maximum) per level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, College).
- Bring the posters to the conference. (For judging, turn in no later than Friday, March 15 at NOON.) Or mail by March 10th to **Peggy Baldwin**, Box 189, Rockview, WV 24880.

WVCTM 2006 Poster Contest Entry Form

Check ONE: K-2 3-5 6-8 9-12 College

Student: _____

School: _____

County: _____

Local Newspaper: _____

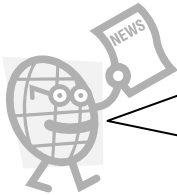
WVCTM Teacher Sponsor: _____

This form must be attached to the back of each poster submitted.
Copy form as needed.

To be judged, posters must be turned in no later than NOON on Friday, March 17, 2006 at the Conference registration table. Posters may be collected after the banquet on Friday night. Posters left up past noon on Saturday will be discarded.

WVCTM Executive Committee

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

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



Upcoming Events
WVCTM Annual Meeting
Math is Mega-Fun!
 Flatwoods, WV
 March 17-18, 2006

WVCTM Executive Committee
Meetings at 8:00 p.m.
Flatwoods, WV, Days Inn
Thursday, March 16, 2006

NCTM Annual Meeting
 St. Louis, Missouri
 April 26-29, 2006
 “Asking Questions – Generating Solutions”

2006 WVCTM Conference

Registration materials for the 2006 WVCTM Annual Conference on March 17^h and 18^h at the Flatwoods Days Inn have been mailed to all WVCTM members. The completed registration form and payment were to be mailed and postmarked by February 10, 2006. Additional programs and registration forms are available on the website at www.wvctm.org. This year's theme, “Math is Mega Fun” promises plenty of ideas and information to enhance mathematics instruction at all levels from presenters with many types of expertise.

Membership Note

In registering for the annual conference, you automatically renew your WVCTM membership which runs from June 30 to June 30. Anyone who registers for the conference is considered a member at that time and may vote in the elections.

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