



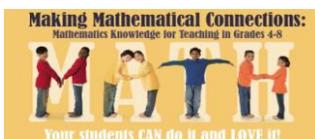
Making Mathematical Connections **Project Serves Area Teachers**

The *Making Mathematical Connections* (MMC) project is an exciting new partnership between the UWO Mathematics Department and nine Northeastern Wisconsin school districts. The program is dedicated to enhancing teachers' mathematical content knowledge and their abilities to teach mathematics.

The Math Department was awarded a three-year grant of \$446,419 from the Mathematics and Science Partnerships program of the U.S. Department of Education. Faculty members, Eric Kuennen (project director and principal investigator) John Beam, Amy Parrott, Jason Belnap, and Jen Szydlik design, promote and serve as instructors for the program. Specifically, the project serves teachers of grades four through eight to help them actively engage their students in solving problems, learn how to press students for conceptual understanding, and listen, evaluate and respond to student reasoning and multiple ways of thinking about mathematics.

The first MMC summer workshop was held on the UWO campus in August of 2010 with 39 participants, and it has already seen success. "The workshop made me rethink the way I have been teaching for the last 20 years," said a participant.

Visit the Mathematics Department website and click on the MMC link for more information.



Math Club and Student News

The UWO Mathematics Club meets once each month during the semester for snacks, mathematical conversation, presentations, or movies. For more information, contact faculty advisor Grady Bullington at bullingt@uwosh.edu.

Mathematics major Liem Nguyen (advisor David Penniston) completed an undergraduate research project titled "Parity of K-regular Partition Functions." Liem won an Undergraduate Poster Session Prize for her poster at the Joint AMS/MAA meetings, and an Outstanding Presentation Award for her talk at *MathFest*. In addition she is the 2011 recipient of the prestigious UWO Chancellor's Award.

The Math Department's Harvey McKenzie Senior Award winner this year is Amanda Baxter and the winner of the Radford Boeing Sophomore Award is Sarah Roth.

Ready to play? Try the *Take a Number* category from *Face-Off*:

- 20 How many pips are on a standard die?
- 40 What prime number is both the sum of two primes and the difference of two primes?
- 60 What two-digit number has a cube root equal to the square root of the sum of its digits?
- 80 What is the smallest non-palindromic number whose square *is* a palindrome?

Jeopardy-Like Game Show "Face-Off" Combines Fun, Knowledge

"Face-Off," a math quiz show organized by faculty members Ken Price and Steve Szydlik, has created some buzz in the mathematical community. Teams of 2-4 students represent their schools in the competition. Rules are similar to the game show "Jeopardy!" The first round contains four mathematical categories with four questions. The second round has the same format, except points are doubled. In the end, each team gets a chance to answer a "Final Face-off" question.

During the fall semester, hundreds of college students participated in "Face-Off" at the Pi Mu Epsilon conference at St. Norbert College. This spring the Face-Off competition took place on April 29th at the Wisconsin Section meeting of the Mathematical Association of America hosted by UW Stout.



Students await the next "Face-Off" challenge

Jen Szydlik Honored with the Regents' Award for Teaching Excellence



Photo by Shawn McAfee

Faculty member Jen Szydlik was rewarded for her dedication to teaching in Spring 2010 with the Regents' Teaching Excellence Award. Szydlik believes that in order for students to understand the nature of mathematics and to become powerful problem solvers, they must have authentic mathematical experiences in the classroom. "Many of my students bring with them impoverished beliefs about what it means to teach mathematics and what it means to learn mathematics, and my first job is to challenge those beliefs," Szydlik said. "I try to show them a beautiful and addictive world of patterns and logic."

Wisconsin honors only two faculty and academic staff members each year from the 26 UW-system schools. UWO has received nine Regents' Awards, six for professors and three for academic departments – that's more than any other school. Jen Szydlik is the second winner from the Mathematics Department – John Koker won the award in 2006.

Math Education Students to Study in the People's Republic of China

Faculty members Eric Kuennen and John Beam will lead a study abroad trip to China in May 2011. Eighteen undergraduates will study mathematics education, visit primary and secondary schools in Ningbo and Hangzhou, and teach a class to Chinese school children. The group will also tour Shanghai and Beijing.

To learn more about this exciting trip, visit <http://www.uwosh.edu/mathematics/China/>.



Chinese Mathematics Class. Photo by Eric Kuennen

UWO Mathematics Department Then and Now



Back row:
Left to right: Halle, Merlin D.; Raab, Joseph A.; Eierman, Tom T.; Thompson, Phillip J.; Huberty, Carl J.
Front row:
Left to right: Odell, Jon; Werner, Michael; Barr, Donald R.; Wolff, Harry L.; Brieske, Thomas J.
Not pictured: Piper, V. Joseph; Caudle, Frederick L.; Vlamis, James N.

The Faculty and Academic Staff in 1966



The Faculty and Academic Staff in 2011
Photo by Steve Szydlik

CAPP helps High School Students Earn Credit in College Math Classes

The Cooperative Academic Partnership Program (CAPP) at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh provides area high school students the opportunity to earn college credits in select courses while still in high school. Math Department faculty members Steve Winters, Zoubir Benzaid, Kandasamy Muthuvel and Hong Zhang serve as liaisons who provide mentoring and support for high school instructors for Calculus I, Calculus II and statistics classes. CAPP gives students a chance to experience the challenge of university course work while still in high school.