Mathematics Council
NEWSLETTER
The Alberta Teachers' Association

President's Message

I am pleased to begin my term as president while there are so many exciting things going on in math education in Alberta. The MCATA executive is a committed group of educators who are passionate about math education. I am proud to have the opportunity to work with them.

I have been an educator for 23 years. During most of that time, I was a secondary math teacher. I am currently an instructional processes consultant with my district. I spent the past two-and-a-half years on secondment to the Alberta Assessment Consortium, which gave me the opportunity to travel the province and meet math teachers from all across Alberta. We conducted a research study into formative assessment and high school math.

I am looking forward to our joint conference next October with the science council. We have booked a math keynote speaker whom I admire greatly—Steven Strogatz. Chris Hadfield will provide the other keynote at that conference. An organizing committee made up of members of both councils is well along in the planning stages of this joint endeavour. Watch for upcoming details about registration opening.

One of my goals as president of MCATA is to continue to build relationships among K–12 teachers, Alberta Education, and postsecondary educators. We are in the midst of a curricular redesign, and many voices need to be heard. These are exciting times.

John Scammell

Request for Lesson Plans

Have you created one of those amazing cross-curricular lesson plans that worked so well you wish you could share it with more teachers? Maybe you haven't, but have always wanted the excuse to try. Well, now you have it.

For upcoming issues of *delta-K*, we are looking for cross-curricular lesson plans for kindergarten to Grade 12 that include a significant math component. Recognizing that a lot of work goes into creating a project like this, we would like to share these ready-to-go resources so that we and students can benefit from the brain power and effort of multiple teachers. We are looking for submissions by April 30. If timing is an issue, or for any other questions, please contact Lorelei Boschman (*delta-K* editor) at lboschman@mhc.ab.ca.

Friends of MCATA

Cheryl Schaub and Dean Walls were recognized as Friends of MCATA at the annual conference. Both of them have made contributions in support of MCATA's mission, "Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics" in our province.

From the Editor's Laptop

If you run into Gladys Sterenberg in the near future, make sure to give her a big thank-you for the many hours she has put into shaping our publication, *delta-K*, into a professional resource, as well as being instrumental in the publication of *Selected Writings from the Journal of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association: Celebrating 50 Years (1962–2012) of* delta-K. She is retiring from the editor's position after many years of appreciated service.

In the last issue of this newsletter, I mentioned Marj Farris's upcoming retirement from the position of president. Thank you, Marj, for your work in this position, and with your move to the position of past president, thank you for the continuing expertise you provide to keep us on track and things running smoothly.

We welcome a new member to the executive, Lorelei Boschman. Her bio can be found in "New to the MCATA Executive." After you read a bit about her, start your lesson planning to help her continue the great tradition that Gladys has burnished into the *delta-K* we know and love.

And finally, we welcome John Scammel to the position of president. You may remember that he joined us two years ago while he was on a secondment to the Alberta Assessment Consortium, where he was researching the effects of formative assessment on completion rates in mathematics. Combine this with 17 years of teaching, and consultant work for Edmonton Public Schools, and we have a picture of leadership in mathematics that is sure to fit the role of president of MCATA.

So the next time you run into any of these people, pass on the thank-yous for the passion and hours that they put into these positions.

Thank you!

Karen Bouwman

Your Next Reading Project Is Ready for Purchase

We are excited to announce the completion of *Selected Writings from the Journal of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association: Celebrating 50 Years (1962–2012) of* delta-K.

The teaching and learning of mathematics in Alberta has a long and storied history. An integral part of the past 50 years (1962–2012) of this history has been *delta-K: Journal of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.* This new book, which presents ten memorable articles from each of the past five decades—that is, 50 articles from the past 50 years of the journal—provides an opportunity to share this rich history with a wide range of people interested in the teaching and learning of mathematics and mathematics education. Each decade begins with an introduction that provides historical context and concludes with a commentary from a prominent member of the Alberta mathematics education community. As a result, this monograph provides a historical account as well as a contemporary view of many of the trends and issues in the teaching and learning of mathematics. This volume is meant to serve as a resource for a variety of people, including teachers of mathematics, mathematics teacher educators, mathematics education researchers, historians, and undergraduate and graduate students. Most important, this volume is a celebratory retrospective of the work of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

More information on this book and how you can get your copy can be found at mathteachers.ab.ca under Publications.

Notes from the MCATA Executive

September Executive Meeting Summary

Meetings were held on September 5 and 6, 2014, at Barnett House, with the majority of the meetings focused on the fall symposium and the October conference. Some revisions were made and approved for the *Handbook of Duties and Procedures*. The agenda included discussion about location for the 2016 conference, with Daryl Chichak and Alicia Burdess as cochairs for this conference. An advertisement will be put in the *ATA News* for an event registrar for the conference/symposia registration process for the 2015 year. Reports were received from representatives who attended ARA in May and ATA Summer Conference in August. Three members of the executive planned to present at the Beginning Teachers' Conference (BTC) in Edmonton and one member planned to attend the BTC in Calgary. The budget for 2014–15 was determined for presentation at the annual general meeting at the conference in October.

December Executive Meeting Summary

John Scammell, MCATA's president, chaired his first meeting in his new position and consulted with Marj Farris, past president, as needed. Tancy Lazar, vice president of publications, and Donna Chanasyk, secretary, returned to the executive following their acclamation in the spring election of 2014. New Canadian anti-spam legislation (CASL) has implications for organizations like MCATA. Proper disclaimers must accompany any commercial messages, and John will take on the role of CASL compliance officer to ensure that MCATA e-mails are in compliance. The agenda included debriefings on the symposium and conference that were held in October. MCATA has agreed to support the iTunes Project and the Alberta Assessment Consortium Collaborative Partnership. A $500 grant was approved for a group of teachers to help them with a professional development opportunity. Considerable time was spent in planning the 2015 joint conference with the Science Council. There was a brief discussion about the conferences in 2016 and 2017.

Table officers will meet in January and May, and the executive will meet in May.

MCATA Conference

The next conference is "Geeks Unite," a joint conference with the Science Council. It will take place in Edmonton on October 23 and 24, 2015, at the Fantasyland Hotel. The keynote speakers are Steven Strogatz and Chris Hadfield.

New to the MCATA Executive

Lorelei Boschman (BEd, MEd) is pleased to accept the position of editor of *delta-K*, MCATA's journal. Lorelei graduated with her BEd from the University of Lethbridge in 1987 and completed her MEd in 1997, also through the University of Lethbridge. After teaching one year at a K–8 school in Barons, Alberta, she accepted a full time mathematics teaching position at Medicine Hat High School, in Medicine Hat, Alberta, where she taught for the next 21 years, teaching Grades 9–12 and in all mathematics streams. In 2008, she took a contractual position with Medicine Hat College to teach numeracy and scientific literacy courses and began working in the education degree program there in 2010, when she became a full-time instructor in the education department. Along with teaching first- and second-year education and math/science literacy courses, she also teaches the curriculum and instruction course for mathematics for the degree program. As a faculty member at Medicine Hat College, she is involved in numerous professional growth opportunities and planning groups, from local to international. She also collaborates extensively in her community with the education students for the practicums and service learning hours they participate in.

Lorelei is married and has a blended family of 7 children aged 14 to 23. She has coauthored two books: *The Big Cook*, which sold over 48,000 copies, and *The Big Cook 2*, which has currently sold over 8,000 copies. This adventure has brought her new knowledge about publishing, marketing and media in general. She loves to travel and do outdoor activities with her husband and children.

She is looking forward to sharing many practical and thought-provoking articles and classroom-based ideas with you through *delta-K* and looks forward to your submissions and ideas for future issues. Math education is in a changing environment, and Lorelei wants to continue in the tradition of professional articles and practical ideas for the math educator.

TERM Meetings

Teachers of Mathematics in the Edmonton Region (TERM) will meet next on March 2 and May 11. The meetings are at 5 PM at Paul Kane High School, in St Albert. For more information, contact Donna Chanasyk at donnajc@telus.net.

Awards

Dr Arthur Jorgenson Chair Award Recipient

Sadly, due to lack of applicants, there is no recipient this year. Please encourage your student teachers to apply!
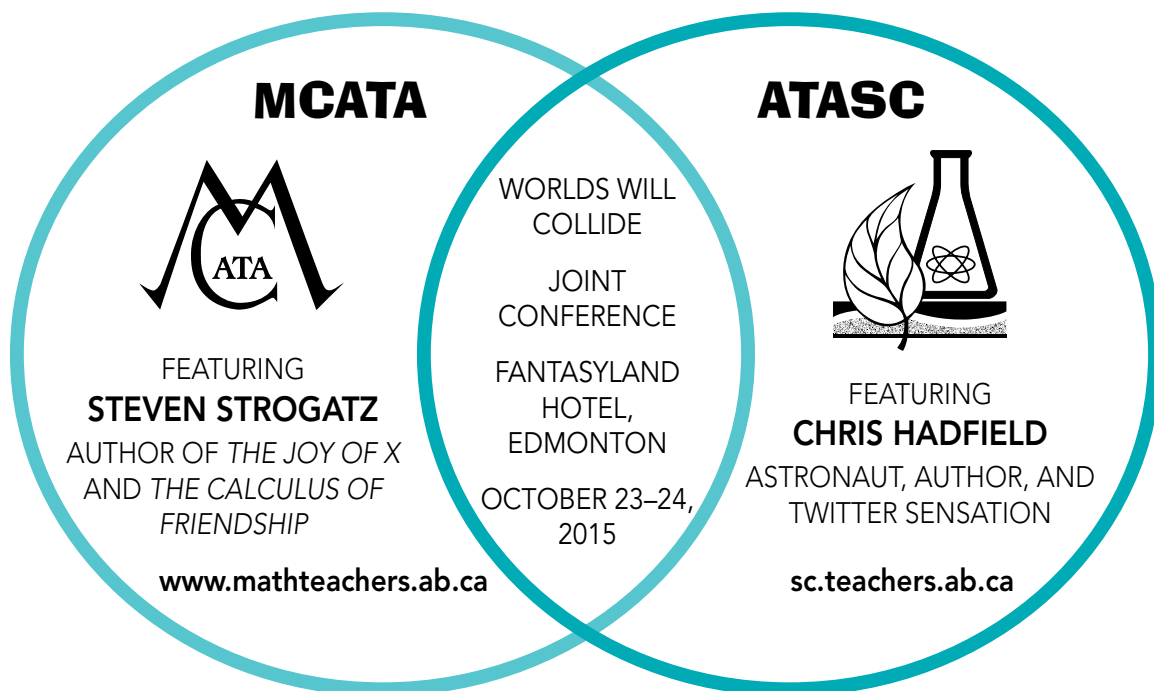
Math Educator of the Year

We firmly believe that someone's name should be listed here, but because we received no nominations, we have to leave this space blank. We are looking for mathematics leaders in both elementary and high school. Please see the included nomination form, and nominate a colleague for this year.

ATA Educational Trust Specialist Council Grant

A grant of $400 is available to teachers to attend a specialist council annual conference who apply by September 30 each year. This year the following teachers received the grant to attend the 2014 or 2015 MCATA conference: Cathy Campbell, Mario Doroshenko, Caroline Elcid, Jennifer Hollman, Stephanie Keyowski, Dolph Shaw, Candice Shogren and Tamara Wilcox. Congratulations to all the recipients!

"GEEKS UNITE"

MCATA

ATASC

FEATURING
STEVEN STROGATZ
AUTHOR OF *THE JOY OF X* AND *THE CALCULUS OF FRIENDSHIP*

www.mathteachers.ab.ca

WORLDS WILL COLLIDE

JOINT CONFERENCE

FANTASYLAND HOTEL, EDMONTON

OCTOBER 23–24, 2015

FEATURING
CHRIS HADFIELD
ASTRONAUT, AUTHOR, AND TWITTER SENSATION

sc.teachers.ab.ca

FINE PRINT: WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS CONFERENCE WILL SELL OUT. REGISTER EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT. REGISTRATION LINKS ARE ON BOTH COUNCILS' WEBSITES.

Mathematics Council
of the Alberta Teachers' Association

www.mathteachers.ab.ca

Providing leadership to encourage the continuing
enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics.

Nomination Form for MCATA Table Officers

Ensure an active executive council by nominating teachers who will take an active role in making the Mathematics Council benefit all mathematics teachers.

Nominations for the following offices for the 2015/16 year are now being accepted:
—Vice-President (Professional Development) and Treasurer

To nominate a candidate, complete the form below and mail to Returning Officer, Cory Schoffer, c/o MCATA, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1.

Nomination Deadline is March 15, 2015.

If an election is necessary, it will be conducted by postal mail. A newsletter outlining the platform of each candidate will be sent out with ballots to all members on or about *April 15, 2015*. A candidate who wishes to include a platform in the newsletter should send it to Returning Officer, Cory Schoffer, c/o MCATA, 11010 142 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5N 2R1. Platforms should be a maximum of 500 words in length and shall be submitted by the nomination deadline.

DEADLINE FOR RETURN OF BALLOTS IS MAY 30, 2015. The successful candidates will be notified on the same day and the results posted on the MCATA website and printed in the next available newsletter.

We, the undersigned members of MCATA, nominate _____
(name)

of _____
(address)

Alberta Education Certificate Number of Nominee: _____

For the position of: _____

Signatures and addresses of three nominators:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Alberta Education Certificate Number: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Alberta Education Certificate Number: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Alberta Education Certificate Number: _____

I, _____ accept this nomination _____
(print name)   (signature of nominee)

By completing this form you are voluntarily providing your personal information and consenting to its collection, use and disclosure for all purposes connected with your participation as a member of this council.

Alberta Mathematics Educator Awards

A maximum of three mathematics educator awards may be conferred annually in recognition of demonstrated leadership in mathematics education in Alberta. These awards will be presented to the recipients at the MCATA annual conference. The recipient will receive a commemorative plaque, a certificate and registration at the current annual conference. The names of award recipients will be published in MCATA publications.

Selection Criteria

Awards may be conferred upon individuals in each of the following categories:

- Kindergarten–Grade 6 classroom teachers
- Grades 7–12 classroom teachers
- Those who have made exceptional contributions to professional development of teachers at the school, local, provincial or national levels *and* who have demonstrated leadership in encouraging the continuing enhancement of the teaching, learning and understanding of mathematics in Alberta

No more than one award will be conferred in each category, and the conferring of awards will be contingent upon there being deserving recipients in each category.

Nomination Procedure

Nominators must be current members of MCATA.

Nominations for the award must be forwarded to the selection committee. A complete nomination application includes the following:

- Information about nominee (Part 1 on reverse side)
- Information about nominator (Part 2 on reverse side)
- Three letters of support that reflect the criteria listed above

For more information, contact the director of awards and grants:

Carmen Wasylynuik
Box 4086
Barrhead, AB   T7N 1A1

Carmenbt@telus.net
780-907-8990

The deadline for receipt of applications is **August 1** of each year.

Alberta Mathematics Educator Award Nomination Form

Part 1

Nominee's Name_____

Home Address_____

City and Postal Code_____

Business Address_____

City and Postal Code_____

Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

Signature of Nominee_____Date_____

Home E-mail _____ School E-mail _____

Part 2

Nominator's Name_____

Home Address_____

City and Postal Code_____

Business Address_____

City and Postal Code_____

MCATA Membership No_____Member Since_____

Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

Home E-mail _____ School E-mail _____

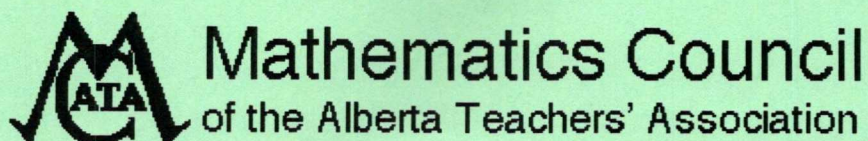Signature of Nominator_____Date_____

Part 3
A minimum of three letters of support. Please forward application and letters to the director of grants and awards:

>   Carmen Wasylynuik (carmenbt@telus.net)
>   Box 4086
>   Barrhead, AB T7N 1A1

The deadline for receipt of applications is **August 1** of each year.

Mathematics Council
of the Alberta Teachers' Association

DR ARTHUR JORGENSEN CHAIR AWARD

(MCATA Student Teacher Award)

This award is presented by the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association (MCATA) to encourage students enrolled in education programs in postsecondary institutions throughout Alberta to pursue and commit to mathematics education.

The award consists of

- a one-year term on the MCATA executive, with expenses paid to attend executive meetings (as per article 3.4 of the MCATA handbook),
- a one-year membership in MCATA and NCTM, and
- an invitation to attend one MCATA conference with appropriate expenses paid, subject to the approval of the executive committee (eg, substitute teacher, one night accommodation, and travel and meals not included in the conference registration).

The recipient of this award must be enrolled in a degree program in a faculty of education in Alberta. The recipient will be selected on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence and a clear commitment to mathematics education in either

- specialization in mathematics at the secondary level or
- a keen interest and desire to expand mathematics knowledge at the elementary level.

1. Applicants must apply by April 30 of the current year to Dr Arthur Jorgensen Chair Award c/o Director of Awards and Grants (carmenbt@telus.net).

2. Applicants must submit a letter of reference from a faculty member in their school of education.

3. Applicants must complete the MCATA application form and address each of the questions or statements found on the application form.

4. A selection committee of the Mathematics Council of the Alberta Teachers' Association will make the **final** choice of recipient for this award.

APPLICATION FORM for

DR ARTHUR JORGENSEN CHAIR AWARD

(MCATA Student Teacher Award)

Please print legibly.

Name of Applicant: _____

Address: _____ Postal Code: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Home E-mail Address: _____

Postsecondary Institution: _____

Description of Program of Study: _____

Current Grade Point Average: _____

Previous Degree (if applicable) _____

Are you currently a member of any mathematics organization? _____

If yes, which one? _____ Membership Number _____

Date: _____ Signature: _____

ADDRESS EACH OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS on additional pages.

❑ Why did you choose to pursue mathematics education as a major area of study?
❑ How would you advocate and/or promote mathematics education with your students' school community?
❑ Identify and address current issues and concerns in mathematics education.
❑ How would you foster positive attitudes towards mathematics?

OUTLINE YOUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROWTH PLAN.

The deadline for application is April 30 of the current year.