

Mu Alpha Theta Newsletter

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Greetings from your President, Mary Emma Bunch

Has your chapter celebrated **Mu Alpha Theta's 50th Birthday?** Our actual birthday wasn't until this spring so you still have time for the party before school is over. You can find information about the organization's history at www.mualphatheta.org >About Us>History. If you send a picture or article about your celebration to Kay Weiss, matheta@ou.edu, we'll try to put it in the newsletter next fall.

I've been very pleased that many of your chapters have participated in the Rocket City Math League and the Log I contests. This is such a good opportunity for you to get experience in different types of competitions. Hopefully more chapters will choose to participate next year.

Congratulations to each of our Mu Alpha Theta graduating seniors! I wish you much success in the next phase of your education. Hopefully you will continue your enjoyment and study of mathematics. **Are you planning to attend a two-year college?** If you are, check to see if the college has a Mu Alpha Theta Chapter. Your high school Mu Alpha Theta membership makes you eligible for the college's chapter. If the college does not have a chapter, encourage them to apply for a Mu Alpha Theta Charter.

Congratulations to our members who will be receiving Associate Degrees in our Two-Year College Chapters! I wish you success in your profession or the next phase of

your education. Keep enjoying mathematics in whatever you do.

When the graduates are gone, it is going to be up to your returning members to keep your chapter active. Each of you has an obligation to step up to the responsibility to fulfill the leadership roles in your chapter. Start planning now to have 2007-2008 the best year ever for your Mu Alpha Theta Chapter.

Sponsors, I want to say a big "Thank You" to each of you for all the time, energy and leadership you provide for your Mu Alpha Theta Chapter. It is through enthusiastic teachers like you that students learn to enjoy mathematics. You are the kind of teacher who makes a difference in the lives of their students.

I look forward to meeting many of you, members and sponsors, at the National Convention in Tampa this July. It will be a great time for competitions, speakers, activities and making new friends.

Let me know if you have any suggestions for or concerns about Mu Alpha Theta. You can email me at bunch-mao@gmail.com. I'd be delighted to hear from you.

National Office

It has been a busy year at the National Office. We have already enrolled over 34,000 new members this school year and expect another 4,000 to be added before the end of June. Orders typically leave the office the day they arrive, but an extra day or two is always helpful.

More than half our teachers are now taking advantage of our Online Order System. Please try it out. Starting next fall, we will charge a \$15.00 handling fee for chapters that do not email their new member names or enter them online. Remember, Full members remain in your Active Member Table until the year of their graduation, when we move them to a table invisible to you.

This year Mu Alpha Theta made available \$28,000 in scholarships, up to \$20,000 in summer study/research grants, free registration for the two winners from the Region IV competition, and \$15,000 in donations to our Educational Founda-

tion. The Educational Foundation gave a \$5000 scholarship, will provide up to \$20,000 in Convention Grants to first time attending schools, and will award \$6500 in prize money to outstanding members, teachers and chapters.

Each year the money brought in from honor cords goes to supporting these scholarships and grants, as well as our National Convention. For the first time this October, we will have a competition for Two-Year Colleges hosted by Manatee Community College in Bradenton, FL. Students will enjoy math competitions, guest speakers, Math Jeopardy and social activities together. Both Mu Alpha Theta and AMATYC will support the event. We hope our Two-Year Schools will join us!

National Convention 2007

Upcoming National Conventions!

Sacramento, CA July 13-18, 2008

Knoxville, TN July 19-24, 2009

The Kalin Award was created by a grant from Dr. Robert Kalin of Florida State University, a former President of Mu Alpha Theta. This award recognizes graduating seniors attending the National Mu Alpha Theta Convention who have excelled in mathematics and performed notable service to Mu Alpha Theta communities. The winner of the Award receives a \$2500 prize and a distinguished plaque. **Applications must be post marked by June 15, 2007.**

For applications and more information, visit the Mu Alpha Theta website and click on Awards > Kalin.

The 37th Mu Alpha Theta National Convention, hosted by Christine Brzycki and Dave Macfarlane from Palm Harbor University High School in Palm Harbor, FL, will be held July 16-21, 2007, in sunny Tampa, Florida, at the Grand Hyatt overlooking beautiful Tampa Bay.

Registration is \$640, unless an early deposit was sent in and must be postmarked by May 15. Payment for all participants in due then, since our final rooming list is due by June 1! Remember to enter all participant data online. Just log in at www.mualphatheta.org and press "Convention Registration" on the left. No registrations will be accepted late. The registration fee includes convention activities, t-shirt, lodging at the hotel and most meals. A schedule and the complete Sponsor's Information Packet are available online at www.mualphatheta.org >

National Convention. A trip to Busch Gardens is planned, as well as other social evening events.

The convention will include math competitions at three levels, including Topic Tests, Cyphering, an Interschool Contest, Quizzle, Hustle, Calculator Programming, School Bowl, State Bowl, Chalk Talk, Scrapbook, Poster, and Gemini Contest. Each school is invited to bring competitors in **Mu (Calculus), Alpha (Pre-Calculus), and Theta (Algebra II/Geometry) divisions.** There will be a parade of school banners at opening ceremonies

If your school has not been to convention in the recent past or you are a new or reactivating chapter, some Convention Grants are available. See "Attend Free" on our website.

We hope to see you in Tampa this summer!

Actuarial Foundation Scholarships

Attention Mu's, Alpha's and Theta's: The Actuarial Foundation is offering several scholarships for \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000, for students who successfully complete an actuarial research project! Project details will be announced at the 2007 Mu Alpha Theta National Convention in July. Project information will also be available on The Actuarial Foundation's Website www.actuarialfoundation.org after the convention.

Projects are due February 1, 2008 and scholarship winners will be notified by April 1, 2008.

'Actuaries' are consistently rated as one of the top jobs in America. Try this project out to see if this career is for you! Check out www.BeAnActuary.org to find out exactly what an actuary does.

Congratulations Award Winners!

The Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation will present the \$5000 Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship this year to **Shivali Sarawgi** from Lakota West High School in West Chester, OH. Shivali is the National President and has participated in Mu Alpha Theta for four years and attended the National Convention each summer.

This year's recipient of the \$2500 Andree Award is **Whitney Hall** from Claremore High School in Claremore, OK.

The Diane Rubin Award was won this year by **Illinois Math & Science Academy** Aurora, IL. The Mu Alpha Theta chapter won for their Junior High Math Contest held annually in March.

This year Mu Alpha Theta has selected seven students to receive a \$4000 college scholarship. Competition for these scholarships was very competitive. Winners include:

Curtis Lee from Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz, TX—attending Texas Lutheran University in Sequin, TX.

Jeremy Hsu from Winter Springs High School

in Winter Springs, FL, attending Harvard.

Caroline Drucker from Bergen County Academies, in Hackensack, NJ

Karis Tang-Quan from Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in Rolling Hills Estates, CA—attending Stanford University.

Mark Doss from Columbus High School in Columbus, GA—attending MIT.

Aneesh Raghunandan from Cypress Bay High School in Weston, FL

Allison Rosshirt from Farmington High School in Farmington, CT—attending Boston College.

Region IV held its Regional Competition at Beavercreek High School this winter. The top Theta and Alpha competitors win a free registration to the Tampa National Convention. This year's winners are **Tong Zhan**, Alpha, from William Mason High School in Mason, OH and **Collin Hu**, Theta, from Beavercreek High School in Beavercreek, OH.

Congratulations to all these outstanding math students!

STUDENTS

Drexel Scholarships

Drexel University is pleased to announce a new scholarship open to registered members of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society. Drexel will offer five scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 each to students who meet the following criteria: Attended the Mu Alpha Theta Summer Convention during the summer after their junior year and placed as a top scorer in the Mu Alpha Theta mathematics competition.

To be considered for a Drexel University Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship, an application for admission to Drexel University, along with high school transcripts, SAT or ACT scores, and letters of recommendation, must be on file with the Admissions Office by January 15, 2008. Along with a completed scholarship application indicating your intention to apply for this scholarship, please enclose an essay/personal statement illustrating what your experience in Mu Alpha Theta has brought to you and how it has affected your own career goals. The scholarship application should be sent directly to the Mary Catalfamo, Scholarship Coordinator and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admissions, by January 15th. Decisions concerning the Drexel University Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship will be made by March 15.

The Drexel University Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship is renewable for each year of the recipient's undergraduate degree program, providing he/she is enrolled in a full-time-day undergraduate program at Drexel and maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the end of each academic year. The Drexel University Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship is applied to annual tuition only. It is not applied to room and board, annual fees, or partial tuition rates. Applicants not selected for this scholarship will be considered for other University scholarships and grants. If the recipient files the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and becomes eligible for other financial assistance, the amount of this award will become part of his/her total financial aid package. Notification of other financial assistance will be separate from notification of the Drexel University Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship. Scholarship applications and questions can be directed to Mary Catalfamo, mkc28@drexel.edu.

The things of this world cannot be made known without a knowledge of mathematics. – Roger Bacon

Honor Your Outstanding Sponsor!

Does your chapter have a sponsor that goes above and beyond? Then nominate them for the Sister Scholastica Award and/or the Huneke Award.

The Sister Scholastica Award is named after Sister Scholastica who, since 1972, was a dedicated sponsor and a fixture at the National Convention. The winner of the Sister Scholastica Award receives a \$500 cash prize and a plaque. Only sponsors that will be attending the National Convention may be nominated.

The Huneke Award was established in honor of Harold Huneke, a former Secretary/Treasurer of National Mu Alpha Theta. The winning sponsor of the Huneke Award receives \$500 cash award and a plaque.

Last year, the Sister Scholastica recipient was **Dr. Thom Morris** of Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, FL and the Huneke Award went to **Mattie White**, retired sponsor of Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, LA.

For information about eligibility and to download a nomination form, go to our website at www.mualphatheta.org > Awards > Sister Scholastica and > Huneke. Nomination forms must be postmarked by **June 15, 2007**.

Summer Math Program/Research Grants

Once again, Mu Alpha Theta is offering Summer Math Program/Research Grants of **up to \$2000** to Full Members for summer 2007 or the 07-08 school year! Grant money may be used to pay tuition or fees for a summer math program at, or sponsored by, an accredited school or university. Money may also be granted to reimburse expenses for doing research in mathematics or applied mathematics. This may include, but is not limited to, housing, travel, publication fees, or supplies.

One recipient of a Research Grant, Jeremy Blum from Byram Hills High School in Armonk, NY, has been working with Dr. Peter Kyberd at the University of New Brunswick in Canada on building an intelligent prosthetic hand. Previous summer grant recipients have attended programs such as the Canada/USA MathCamp in Tacoma, WA and AwesomeMath Summer Program in Dallas, TX.

To find out more about these programs and how to apply for a summer grant, visit our website at www.mualphatheta.org > Scholarships > Summer Grants.

SPONSORS

The Importance of Registering New Members

When a teacher agrees to sponsor a chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, they accept an important responsibility to their student members. Entering new, eligible members each year with the National Office provides important benefits to your students. Both Mu Alpha Theta and the Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation offer monetary scholarships, grants, prizes, awards, and free mathematics competitions for your registered members. Active chapters were provided free TI graphing calculators for the last few years just for asking.

Five percent of the scholarship candidates and sixty percent of the Summer Grant applicants this year were ineligible because they were not registered members. All of these students had paid their fees to their school and had been inducted in their Mu Alpha Theta chapter, but they were never registered with the National Office.

There is nothing more heart breaking than to tell a student or parent that, while they should have been qualified for a \$2000 Summer Grant, we can't award the money since they were not registered with us.

Please make sure that you submit the names of all inducted members within one month of your induction ceremony. Remember, if we don't have a student in our database, they cannot put membership in Mu Alpha Theta on their resume for college. This includes students in a club that does not add them nationally until they are graduating seniors.

Teachers can check who is listed in our database at any time by logging in at our website and clicking on the "View Members" link on the left. Remember, our registration fee is a one-time \$5 fee, less than the cost of a movie ticket. Your students are counting on you to enter them.

Two-Year College Mathematics Competition!

Manatee Community College will be hosting the Mu Alpha Theta Two-Year College Mathematics Competition in Bradenton, FL on **October 26 and 27, 2007**. The competition will include guest speakers, individual and team contests, calculator and noncalculator challenges, games and more. For details, visit www.mccfl.edu/mathdept > Mathletes, or call 941-752-5224.

Service Fee Begins in Fall

Beginning in fall of 2007, the National Office will begin charging a \$15.00 service fee for certificate orders with more than twenty names that are not submitted electronically either through the website or by email. This will include orders submitted by mail and by fax. When names are submitted to the National Office through mail or fax, office staff must enter them into the system by hand, which can be a very time consuming process and increases the chance of spelling errors.

Names can be submitted online when a sponsor places an order online. For large orders, it is often easiest to "cut and paste" names from an existing spreadsheet or word processing docu-

ment. *Remember: If your chapter is paying for an order by check, you can still place your order online. Just select "Purchase Order" as your payment option and enter the number of your check as the purchase order number.*

Some chapters prefer to submit their new member names by email. To do this, group your names by **year of graduation**, and include them in the body of your email or attach them to the email in a spreadsheet or word processing document. Email your list to matheta@ou.edu

If you have questions about the online system or the ordering process, email the National Office or give them a call at 405-325-4489.

Got Associates?

Recently, some chapters have been confused about the definition of an "Associate" Member of Mu Alpha Theta. Some teachers assume that an Associate Member is simply a "Full" Member that was inducted in a previous year, but this assumption is incorrect.

The national office defines an Associate Member as: *High school students in grades 9 through 12, at the school where their permanent record resides, who have completed two semesters of algebra or the equivalent with distinction and are enrolled in, or have completed, a semester of geometry or of second year algebra. Associate Members do not pay the initiation fee, but should be regis-*

tered with the National Office if they wish to attend the National Convention or compete in National competitions. They are not entitled to vote on national policy. They are entitled to attend and be heard at meetings and presumably are likely candidates for Full membership.

Associate Member names can be submitted online at any time by logging in to the website and selecting "Add Associate Members" on the left. These students should be removed if they do not later qualify for Full membership.

Please contact the National Office if you have any questions about associate membership.

Convention Grants

Has it been a while since your chapter attended National Convention? Then consider applying for a Convention Grant for your chapter. Convention Grants are still available for the Tampa Convention, July 16 - 21, 2007. Each Grant provides two free registrations plus up to \$250 in reimbursed travel expenses each, for a sponsor and a non-senior student to attend. To be eligible, a chapter must be newly chartered or

cannot have attended a National Convention for the three prior years. No chapter that has previously been awarded a Grant may apply. The application deadline has been extended to May 14, 2007.

To obtain a Convention Grant application, visit our website at www.mualphatheta.org > National Convention > Attend Free.

Governing Council Elections

In March, 2008 Mu Alpha Theta will hold its election for the Governor of Region 1 (West) the Governor of Region 2 (Southwest) and a President-Elect. Governors serve for four years. The President-Elect serves one year, then as President for two years, and a final year as Past-President. Governing Council members are required to attend two meetings a year. The winter meeting is usually held all day on a Saturday in mid-February at the National Office in Norman, OK. The summer meeting is held prior to the National Convention, with about two and a half days of meetings. Governors serve as volunteers but are reimbursed for travel expenses, per diem costs, and have their room and meals paid during meetings. They also receive free registration to the National Convention each year during their term of office.

Mu Alpha Theta is a growing organization and needs help from teachers willing to share their time and ideas on the Governing Council. Please consider serving. For further information, contact your Regional Governor, Mary Emma Bunch or Kay Weiss.

Scholarship Committee Volunteers Needed

for our Scholarship Committee to help evaluate candidate applications. Applications will be postmarked by March 15 each year and the announcement of winners will be made around April 10. Mu Alpha Theta will develop a rubric to score applications. Anyone interested in helping in the selection process, please contact Kay Weiss at matheta@ou.edu.