

REMEMBER TO CAST YOUR VOTE!!!!

# Mu Alpha Theta Newsletter

Spring 2010

(405) 325-4489 Fax: (405) 325-7184

[www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org)

[matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu)

## GOVERNING COUNCIL

President:

**Tom Tosch**

Mount Rainier High School  
Des Moines, WA 98198  
tomtosch@wamath.net

Past-President:

**Grace Mutz**

Knoxville, TN 37934  
maokid1@msn.com

Secretary-Treasurer:

**Paul R. Goodey**

University of Oklahoma  
Norman, OK 73019  
pgoodey@math.ou.edu

Governor Region I:

**Darryl Edmunds**

Highline High School  
Burien, WA 98148  
dedmunds@hsd401.org

Governor Region II:

**Doris Parrino**

Baton Rouge High School  
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-5412  
dparrino@ebrschools.org

Governor Region III:

**Todd Taylor**

Vestavia Hills High School  
Vestavia Hills, AL 35216  
taylortg@vestavia.k12.al.us

Governor Region IV:

**Mary Ann Gavioli**

Clarkstown South High School  
West Nyack, NY 10994  
mgavioli@ccsd.edu

MAA Representative:

**Steve Dunbar**

University of Nebraska  
Lincoln, NE 68588  
sdunbar1@unl.edu

NCTM Representative:

**Carol Botzner**

Lakota West High School  
West Chester, OH 45069  
elizabeth.botzner@lakotaonline.com

SIAM Representative:

**Terry Herdman**

Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Terry.Herdman@vt.edu

AMATYC Representative:

**Kathy Mowers**

Owensboro Community & Technical College  
Owensboro, KY 42303  
kathy.mowers@kctcs.edu

Executive Director

**Kay Weiss**

Norman, OK 73019  
matheta@ou.edu

## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mu Alpha Theta Members and Sponsors:

Welcome to spring, many of you endured a very hard winter and we are all glad that the weather is finally changing. It is a very busy time for Mu Alpha Theta chapters. With the first semester over, many chapters hold their initiations in the spring. Just a reminder that **next fall**, the one-time registration fee for each new member **rises to \$10**.

It is a busy time in the National Office as well, this time of year they coordinate the applications for the Andree Awards, the Mu Alpha Theta scholarships, the Rubin Award for chapters, charter new chapters, prepare student certificates, send out merchandise and honor cords, and on and on. Remember to try to get your orders in with enough time for items to arrive when you need them.

Our sponsored write-in contests, the Rocket City Math League and the Log 1 Contest are finishing this month. Awards will be distributed in April. Local contests are in full swing culminating in many statewide Mu Alpha Theta contests being held in March or April. Remember **early registration** for the National Convention is **due April 1<sup>st</sup>**. **Check out details for our summer convention near Washington D.C. at our website, [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > National Convention.** The National Convention is a great place to test your math skills, meet other math minds from around the country, see the sites of a new area and, in general have a great time. **The National Office will award up to four convention grants worth \$3000 each to support chapters going to Nationals for the first time.** If you would like to apply, get your application in early. The application form can be found online, at the top of the National Convention page by clicking the "Attend Free" tab.

Are you a student going to a math-related summer program? If so, Mu Alpha Theta may be able to help with your expenses. The Governing Council has provided funds in the form of Summer Grants to support students attending such programs. There are a few restrictions, but it is worth seeing if you are eligible. From the national website, go to Scholarships, then click the Summer Grant tab for more information. Under the Awards section of the website, there is information on the Kalin Award for an outstanding student attending the national convention, the Sister Scholastica Award for a dedicated sponsor, and the Huneke Award for sponsor contributions to Mu Alpha Theta. Applications for these awards are due **June 15<sup>th</sup>**.

One of the ways Mu Alpha Theta chapters can help other chapters is by sharing experiences and activities. Many chapters do this at a local level throughout the year, sponsoring contests and joint meetings, practices and outings. On the national website, there is a section for Teacher Resources and the Activity tab lists several suggestions. I would like to see that section expanded, and I invite sponsors to send in ideas. Specifically, I would like to see this section provide some full meeting program agendas. The program can be centered on a

## **NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED**

practice math test, some new material that would be of interest (or help in a competition) or a presentation from an outside speaker. One of the tests that my chapter practices with every year is the **Short Cuts** test from the 1995 National Convention, found online <http://www.famat.org/PublicPages/TestArchive.aspx>. This website has many tests from past competitions available and is a great resource, as is the "Past Tests" page on the National Convention page of [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org).

Programs can be in the form of an enhanced lesson plan on your favorite math topic, links to web resources, or full presentations that can be downloaded. Feel free to send your ideas, meeting agendas or questions to me at: [tomtosch@comcast.net](mailto:tomtosch@comcast.net).

Finally, all chapters were emailed ballots for the Mu Alpha Theta election. Everyone will vote for President-Elect and for Secretary-Treasurer. Regions 3 and 4 will also elect new Governors. I urge everyone take advantage of the opportunity to vote.

Tom Tosch  
Mu Alpha Theta President

### **Regional Changes:**

Beginning in August, 2010, Mu Alpha Theta will re-align two of its four regions to better balance the number of chapters and the number of members in Region 3 and 4. Region 1 and 2 will remain the same. A majority of our members now reside in Regions 3 and 4. The new Regions are outlined below.

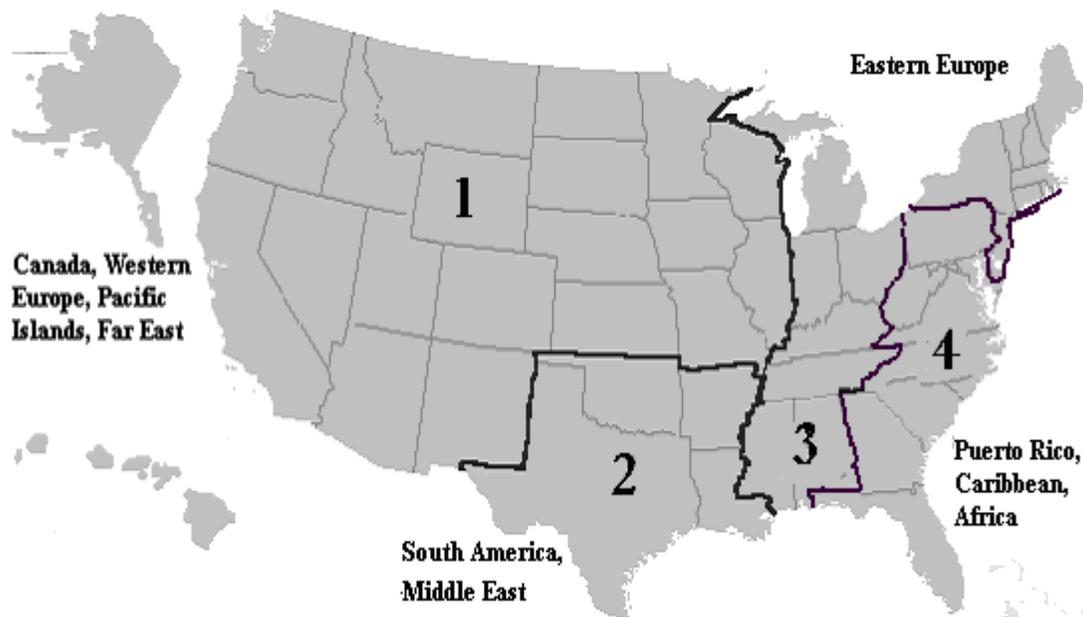
**Region 1:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Canada, the Far East, the Pacific Islands, and Western Europe.

**REGION 2:** Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, South America and Middle East.

**REGION 3:** Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Eastern Europe.

**REGION 4:** Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, and Africa.

### **NEW MAP**



## National Office News from Kay Weiss

Tom Tosch covered lots of good information in his article. One of the most important news items is about our National election. Mu Alpha Theta cannot run without the help, time, and support of those willing to serve at the National level. While National offices do not require a huge time commitment, the work done by your Governing Council must be done for us to continue to function and thrive. Our student members and clubs depend on what we do here. Please remember to read the resumes of each person running and vote for your choice for each office.

**Votes must be emailed to:**

[matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu) or snail mailed to the National Office with a postmark deadline of April 15, if they are to be counted. Winners will be posted online at our website by the end of April, once all votes have been counted.

Officers and Governors serve for four years on the Governing Council.

This fall we sent out 230 free TI 84, 89 and Nspire graphing calculators to active chapters and gave away 180 free copies of Mathematica to teachers and students requesting them.

**More copies of Mathematica are available.** Some calculators remain, mostly the 84 and Nspires. Email the National Office to make a request for these. **We try to offer the free calculators to schools that have never received any in the past.** Mathematica is most appropriate for students in Calculus or beyond.

Also this fall, we were noticed by the Princeton University Press that Dr. Brandon Fradd made a generous donation to allow 1550 of our most active chapters to receive a copy of the large coffee table book "Mathematicians: An Outer View of the Inner World" with photographs by Mariana Cook. We are grateful when our chapters can receive such wonderful gifts just for being part of Mu Alpha Theta.

**Currently we have 200 copies of the 82 min. DVD: "Hard Problems" to give away.** This MAA-produced documentary is about the extraordinarily gifted students who represented the United States in 2006 at the world's toughest math competition—the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). **If you would like a free copy to show your members, just email me at [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu) and we will send you a DVD.** Students who take the AMC tests are vying for a spot on this team. Mu Alpha Theta financially supports these competitions.

## Washington DC Convention Registration Deadlines

April 1: Deadline for deposit to get registration cost at \$625 per person.

May 15: Deadline for all Participants. If not enrolled early, \$675 per person.

## JUNE 15 AWARD DEADLINE

Applications for the **Kalin Award** presented to an outstanding senior member of Mu Alpha Theta attending the National Convention are due June 15. The Kalin Award presents the winner **\$2500** in prize money and a plaque.

June 15 is also the deadline to nomination a sponsor for the **Huneke** and/or **Sister Scholastica** Awards. Beginning last year, the teacher nominated for the Huneke award does not have to be present at the National Convention to be nominated or win the award. Both awards present the winning sponsor a **cash prize of \$2000 and a grant of \$1000** to the teacher's chapter to help cover chapter expenses.

## THANK YOU TO OUR RETIRING SPONSORS:

- Albemarle High School, Charlottesville, VA: Sherry Snyder
- The Bolles School, Jacksonville, FL: Ann McCombs, 6 yrs.
- Pontotoc High School, Pontotoc, MS: Dr. Miriam Clark
- Putnam Valley High School, Putnam Valley, NY: Jerilynn Cohen
- Fountain Valley High School, Fountain Valley, CA: Susan Graff
- Cedar Park High School, Cedar Park, TX: Christin Gonzales
- Trenton Catholic Academy at McCorristin Campus, Hamilton, NJ: Anne Sabol
- North Broward Preparatory School, Coconut Creek, FL: Ira Dornfeld
- Round Rock High School, Round Rock, TX: Robert Cole
- Mary Star of the Sea High School, San Pedro, CA: Katheryn Sanchez
- Notre Dame High School, Chattanooga, TN: Gail Nevins 37 yrs.

Passed Away: McArdren Lancon, Central Catholic High School, Morgan City, LA in August, 2009



# SPONSORS



## DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

### Sponsor Reminders:

New members must be added at least once in a two-year period or your chapter will be made “inactive”. If this happens, to reactivate the chapter, there is a \$15 fee when you enter new members. Our database will automatically assess the \$15 if you go over the two-years. We will notify you prior to making the chapter inactive, usually by email or with a letter to your Principal, but even if the chapter has not been officially made inactive, the fee is still charged.

If you change sponsors, please contact the National Office with the name and email of the new sponsor. You can also log in online to update this information, enter new members, and order merchandise. We can email your chapter ID and password only to a registered or new sponsor. If you choose to share your log in information with student officers, please make sure you approve and check grades for anyone entered as a new member before their name is submitted. **NO STUDENT IS A MEMBER OF MU ALPHA THETA UNLESS THEIR NAME IS SUBMITTED TO US AND WE CAN VERIFY THEIR MEMBERSHIP.**

In order to be eligible for Mu Alpha Theta Summer Grants, scholarships, or awards, a student must be registered in the database as a Full Member. **If you do not enter members until the spring of their senior year, they are not eligible for financial assistance from Mu Alpha Theta!**

Associate Members need only be entered online if they are competing in a Mu Alpha Theta math contest. We define an Associate member as a student with the math GPA to be a member but who has not yet started their fifth semester of math. PLEASE REMOVE ANY STUDENT from our Associate Member Table who does not meet these criteria. Most Associate Members are in Geometry. An Associate member is NOT a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Honor Society and should not list membership on a resume until they are entered as a Full member.

Merchandise may only be purchased and worn by Full Mu Alpha Theta members that are registered with us. You may purchase t-shirts for Associate members, parents, and sponsors if you have an active chapter. Honor cords may be worn ONLY by Full, registered members. If you purchase more items than you have members, we will probably ask why. Sometimes schools have extra money to spend and afraid of losing in before the following school year, so they will purchase extra merchandise. This is fine, as are other explanations. Please just be aware that we may ask.

Please use the online order system when you can. This is the fastest, most efficient way to get your order processed. If you are mailing a check, you may use the check number as your purchase order number and enter new members online! If you don't want to use the online system, please email names of new members to the National Office, grouped by year of graduation. Otherwise, THERE IS A \$15 SERVICE CHARGE, IF WE HAVE TO TYPE MORE THAN 20 NAMES INTO THE DATABASE. We process over 40,000 certificates a year and need your help to get your order out as quickly as we can.

We gladly accept a credit card for your purchase. HOWEVER, to keep our costs down, we will add a Service Charge of \$15 to schools that enter more than three small amount orders per semester. We pay about 4% on each credit card order plus extra postage when sending multiple orders. It is best to set a date for your students to get their membership to you and then give them an extra week or two before entering your order. There will always be stragglers! Once you enter your order, please try not to accept too many more!

**Most common mistakes made: Entering names backwards and entering the wrong year of graduation. Just let us know by email and we will fix it!** Remember that we may print your certificates within an hour of the time you submit your names, though.

**When you enter an order online, you should receive an invoice or a receipt by email.** If you do not, please let us know. All invoices should be turned in to your bookkeeper immediately so they can get a check cut to pay for the order, if it is not paid for by credit card. **We give schools 30 days to pay their bill.** WE HATE TO CALL YOUR BOOKKEEPER ONLY TO FIND OUT NO INVOICE WAS SUBMITTED TO THEM FOR PAYMENT. PLEASE TURN INVOICES IN!

Thank you for all you do and for helping us to serve you better!!



**Mu Alpha Theta Tassels** are now available for a \$5 donation to the Educational Foundation. These can be used on your Graduation Cap, where allowed, or as a decoration in your car, your room, or on your person.

## 2010 Presentation Contest Winner Announced

Avinash Inabathula from Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers, IN and Tyler Kimbley from Harris County High School in Hamilton, GA tied for first place in the Presentation Contest this year. Each won \$600 and a copy of *Mathematica*. You can view all winning presentations online at our website at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org). Avinash did his presentation on “Complex Number Exponents to Euler’s Number” and Tyler did his on “Basic Cryptology”.

There was also a tie for second place. Justin Mathew from Clarkstown High School South in West Nyack, NY did his on “Mathematically Quantifying Anthocyanin Content in Blueberries.” Ryan Breaud and Malerie Bulot from Riverside Academy in Laplace, LA won for their presentation on The Fibonacci Sequence and the Golden’s.”

Third place went to John de St. Germain and Alexander Tir from Riverside Academy for their presentation on “RSA Cryptography: Security for the World”

Each second place presentation won \$300 and a copy of *Mathematica* for each student. Third place won \$100 and a copy of *Mathematica* for each student.

Think about submitting a presentation on your favorite math topic next year! See details online in the fall.

## GOVERNING COUNCIL DECISIONS FROM THE WINTER MEETING:

Teachers who are nominated for the **Huneke Distinguished Sponsor Award** no longer have to be present at the National Convention to win the award. The winner, however, will be announced at the Convention during the Final Award Ceremony. A sponsor whose name is put forward for the award, but who does not win will have their application reconsidered for the following two years.

**FACEBOOK PAGES:** Do you have a Facebook page for your Mu Alpha Theta chapter where our name is used? If so, a sponsor must be an administrator on the page and it must list your school’s name. In other words the “Smith High School Mu Alpha Theta Chapter” must have the school’s name in front of the words Mu Alpha Theta. **Only active chapters have our permission to use our name.** If you are unsure about using our name, email us to ask for permission. If your chapter becomes inactive, the name Mu Alpha Theta must be removed from the page, your math club, all school literature, and your school website.

# STUDENTS

Get to know your Student Delegate Officers:

Hello Everyone,

My name is Eric Willett and I am the Student Delegate President for the year 2009-2010. As the National Convention nears, I hope you are getting as excited as I am. In a few short months, we will be in our nation's capital enjoying challenging competitions and exciting activities.

As in past years, the student delegates will be meeting daily during the National Convention. These meetings are a great way to meet other competitors and contribute your ideas for the Mu Alpha Theta Organization. I hope to see you there, and my fellow delegate officers and I are certainly looking forward to meeting many of you in Washington, DC.

I suspect that this time of year brings many busy activities to your chapter. The same is here in Florida at my chapter. For the past year we have been busy fundraising for our trip to the annual state convention. And, in early February, we hosted a regional math competition. The competition was an exciting way to rally the club as 500 mathletes visited our campus.

As a club, we have been busy travelling around the state to different competitions. In April, we will be heading to Orlando to participate in the Florida state convention. Enjoy your chapter's activities and get ready for an exciting week of math in Washington, DC!

Hi, my name is Stacey Luong and I'm the Parliamentarian! I love the color yellow, math jokes (What do you call an occupied airplane lavatory? *A hypotenuse!*), and spelling words on my calculator (0.7734). I'm from Mount Rainier High School of region 1. This year, my team has hosted a number of competitions and attended quite a few, as well. We've hosted several regional Math is Cool competitions and our very own Mount Rainier Math Invitational. Our team has participated in Skyview's SIGMA competition, Thomas Jefferson's Fall Classic, and High School Math is Cool. A few members of our chapter volunteer to lead the math team at the middle school level every Friday. My life is filled with doing math, attending competitions, and practices. But believe it or not, I do have a life outside of Mu Alpha Theta! I enjoy attending Key Club activities and playing the flute (in band, flute choir, and working on my own repertoire). When I'm not running around after school to fulfill my duties of different extracurricular activities, I relax with my friends at a nearby Starbucks to study (but we usually end up talking) or better yet, visit a park if the sun is shining (which is rare in Seattle, but it happens more towards the summer)!

Remember to tell your feeder Middle Schools about Chi Alpha Mu!

Chi Alpha Mu serves Middle School Math Clubs and is run by Mu Alpha Theta.

*Nominate your sponsor for the Huneke and/or Sister Scholastica Awards!*  
Applications due June 15 and available online at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > Awards