

Attend the 41<sup>st</sup> National Convention in Dallas, TX

# Mu Alpha Theta Newsletter

🍁 Fall 2010 🍁

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## News from the President

Fall brings a new school year with new students and new opportunities for Mu Alpha Theta. I always enjoy the summer conventions, seeing colleagues and coming back with new ideas to help my chapter. The convention in Alexandria, VA was a lot of fun and full of "historically" themed contests. The schedule was arranged so that we had a full day of sight-seeing in the Washington DC area. We had great participation and I want to again thank the hosts, Susan Hiller, Brandi Hillard and Kim Woolfenden, for running a wonderful convention!

Congratulations to Buchholz High School in Gainesville, FL for its Sweepstakes win at the National competition. I would also like to congratulate Nitish Aggarwal from Vestavia Hills High School for winning the 2010 Kalin Award, the most prestigious student award given by Mu Alpha Theta. Bonnie Campbell from Hoover High School was honored with the Huneke Distinguished Sponsor Award and Kim Woolfenden from Tampa Bay Technical was awarded the Sister Scholastica Most Committed Sponsor Award.

The 2011 National Convention will be held at the Embassy-Suites Dallas-Frisco Hotel and Convention Center from July 17-22, 2011. If your school is new to the summer conventions, the Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation will provide four Convention Grants, now worth \$2,800. See the national website: [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > [National Conventions](#) for more details on the convention and the grants.

Mu Alpha Theta offers several contests for individuals and schools during the school year. The Math Presentation Contest which awards prizes to mathematical student presentations. The Log 1 Contest, <http://log1.wamath.net>, offers chapters three rounds of topic tests at the Mu, Alpha, and Theta levels. The Rocket City Math League, <http://www.rocketcitymath.org/>, is open to everyone and has a team contest as well as three rounds for individuals. The last two contests will have registration open by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mu Alpha Theta uses multiple methods to communicate with its 1700+ chapters and 80,000+ student members. This Newsletter is one such method and contains not only news, but contact information and articles from sponsor and student officers, these are archived at: <http://www.mualphatheta.org/Archives/NewsletterArchive.aspx>. The National Office also uses email and most importantly the national website: [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org). It is important for sponsors and students to keep informed of what is going on with their honor society.

On the front page of the website, the new one-time Registration Fee for Mu Alpha Theta student members of \$10 is mentioned. The fee had not been increased since 2001. In addition to the inflation we have all experienced since that year, Mu Alpha Theta has greatly expanded the member benefits by the addition of over \$90,000 in scholarships, Convention grants to new schools, excellent opportunities for students to attend summer math programs, and multiple online contests.

The next meeting of the Governing Council is in January, 2011. If you have items that you think should be discussed, please don't hesitate to contact your regional Governor, myself or Kay Weiss.

Tom Tosch

## **National Office News from Kay Weiss**

The National Office is usually staffed from 10:00 am – 6:00 pm central time, Monday through Friday. The office will be closed on most major National holidays and during the winter break from December 22 – January 3. We do not take a spring break, since this is usually our busiest time of the year. If you have orders needed before January 4, please make sure to get them to the office before December 22, so we can mail them before we close for the holidays.

On July 15, 2010, the **one-time Registration Fee for each new member went up to \$10 per student**. When payment is made, we provide a certificate, membership card, and decal to the student and enter their name in the National Database. These fees allow us to further our mission to promote the joy of mathematics by providing a number of free mathematics competitions to students all over the world and by providing scholarships, prizes, monetary awards, and grants to members and chapters. The only other increase this year is on our diploma seals which now cost 10 cents instead of 6 cents each. We ask you to purchase these in multiples of 25.

Please note that we do not charge separate mailing or handling fees for your orders. If you need an order expedited, we offer a set fee of \$15 for 2 Day Fed Ex delivery or \$25 for Overnight Fed Ex delivery. Expedited orders must be completed by 5 pm Central time to allow for pick up.

Our new regional boundaries are now set. You can see the new boundaries and a list of the states in each region online at the website by clicking the **"About Us" > Structure** link. We have also posted some new policy items under the **Governance Tab** at the top. There is a link here to our National Constitution, our Conflict of Interest policy, Document Retention Policy, and our Whistleblower Policy. These are mandated as necessary policies by the IRS for tax free organizations. **Sponsors will find a Conflict of Interest Policy** available for them to sign and submit, either to their Principal or the National Office. While this is not mandatory, it isn't a bad idea to read the policy and agree to its provisions. It will protect both the sponsor and the school and is a new IRS recommendation for non profit organizations. We suspect it will become a requirement in the not too distant future.

We have found more and more schools where sponsors are coming into conflict with parents over who should be invited to become a member of a Mu Alpha Theta chapter. Online under **Teacher Resources**, you will find a copy of a sample Chapter Constitution. To avoid problems, **we strongly recommend** that each chapter has a **written** document that spells out the requirements for membership in your chapter and the requirements for remaining a member. Changes to your acceptance or retention policy should come before your Full, active members for a vote. In this day and age, it is extremely important to make sure no decision to accept or reject a member can be seen as discriminatory.

**Sponsors: Please make sure your members know about our Scholarships, Summer Grants, and special Awards. We have free math competitions for them, opportunities with Study Buddy and the Actuarial Foundation's Project Math Minds.**

Need anything? Have some ideas? Just let us know! **Have a great school year!**

### **Free Texas Instrument Calculators**

Mu Alpha Theta has purchased a **limited** number of TI 84 Plus, TI 89 Titanium, and some Nspire calculators without CAS to give away

We will provide up to three calculators to a school to give away as prizes at competitions you are running. Sponsors may also give calculators as prizes to their own outstanding students as a reward or auction them off to raise money for their club. **Preference will be given to schools that have never received free calculators in the past.**

If you want some, just email Kay Weiss with your request today at [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu)

### **Mathematica**

Wolfram Research is offering Mu Alpha Theta Full members a copy of this powerful computer algebra system. The copy may be used by the student for one year. Email [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu) for details. These make a wonderful prize to your high level members. We prefer to give the program to students in coursework at the Calculus level or above.

## The 2011 Dallas Convention July 17 - July 22

This summer our National Convention will be at the Embassy Suites Dallas-Frisco Hotel, Convention Center and Spa. We are near the Stonebriar Centre mall with an AMC 24 cinema, a Dave and Buster's, and an ice skating rink. Our excursion on Wednesday, July 20 will be to Six Flags over Texas. The cost of the convention is \$570 per person, if the \$50 deposit is paid by April 1, or \$620 due May 15 if not. These are postmark deadlines. Bus transportation will be from DFW airport. Online registration will open at the Mu Alpha Theta website by January. Adults may select jobs they prefer this year online. The full packet of information with all the tests and rules will be online soon at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > National Convention. Chalk Talk Topics:

Theta topic must be a French mathematician or mathematical topic originating in or related to France, or a mathematical event or something related to an American mathematician active in the US during the years 1861 - 1865. The Alpha topic must be a Spanish mathematician or mathematical topic originating in Spain or about an event or mathematician in the US during 1836 - 1845. The Mu topic must be a Mexican mathematician or topic related to Mexico, or a mathematical event or topic in the US during the years 1845- 1861 or 1865 - present. The years are related to Texan historical events.

There will be an Individual test, Ciphering, Relay, Hustle, Quizzle, Scrapbook and Poster competitions, besides the Topic Tests. **Y'all join us this summer for a great time in Texas!**

## The Actuarial Foundation's Project Math Minds

Congratulations to the 2010 winners of Project Math Minds! **Alex Houck** from Farragut High School in Knoxville, TN won a \$5,000 scholarship. He will be attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. **Lucia Minah Yang** from the Seoul International School in Seoul, Korea won a \$2,500 scholarship.

The 2011 Project Math Minds assignment will deal with the National Catastrophe Fund\* (known as the NCF or the "Nat Cat Fund"), which needs enough money to cover disaster losses expected during the next calendar year. The primary goal of this project is to develop an estimate of the potential losses the Nat Cat Fund could handle.

Project Math Minds offers high school Mu Alpha Theta members an opportunity to see what it is like to work as an actuary. Participants will complete a project using mathematics to solve problems that an actuary might address on the job. The top five to seven projects will be eligible for a scholarship. Instructions, rules, data, and guidelines for submission can be found at: [http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/youth/math\\_minds.shtml](http://www.actuarialfoundation.org/programs/youth/math_minds.shtml).

Projects must be postmarked by February 1, 2011 and volunteer Actuaries are available to help! We would love to see students from all over the country participating in the project. The finished project would also be appropriate to enter in your local Science and Engineering Fair for further possible prizes! Winners will be announced by April 1, 2011.

\*The use of the project name, National Catastrophe Fund, is for project use only and not to be confused with any other project, group or organization of similar name or program.

## ***Thank You to our Retiring Sponsors***

The following teachers have retired as Mu Alpha Theta Sponsors during the past school year or will retire after this year of teaching. Our thanks to these dedicated teachers:

Huntington High School, Huntington, WV:

**James McGinnis, 38 yrs as a sponsor of Mu Alpha Theta.**

Escambia High School, Pensacola, FL:

**Sharon Katona, 24 yrs as a sponsor.**

Nocona High School, Nocona, TX: **Larry Veale, 6 yrs.**

Bartlett High, Anchorage, AL: **Sandra DeTerra**

John Paul II Catholic High School, Tallahassee, FL: **Ann Bergen-Brock, 7 yrs.**

Jefferson/Silva High School, El Paso, TX: **Ernie Baeza, 5 years**

West Jones High School, Laurel, MS: **Elizabeth Young, 5 yrs.**

Tupelo High School, Tupelo, MS: **Patty Hosch**

Presentation High School, San Jose, CA: **Dr. John Howe**

Silverdale Baptist Academy, Chattanooga, TN: **Betty Lee**

Travis High School, Austin, TX: **Noel Ramos**

North Marion High School, Farmington, WV: **Carol Stewart**

Sylacauga High School, Sylacauga, AL: **Kay Nail**

Port St. Joe High School, Port St. Joe, FL: **Rachel Morris**

Ponte Vedra High School, Ponte Vedra, FL: **Della Caldwell**

Ardmore High School, Ardmore, AL: **Sandra Chafin**

Mayde Creek High School, Houston, TX: **Betty Willis**

Ursuline Academy of Dallas, Dallas, TX: **Joseph Cxyz**

Olympia High School, Orlando, FL: **Cheryl B. Woods**

Blue Mountain High School, Schuylkill Haven, PA: **Lynn Reed**

Huntsville High School, Huntsville, AL: **Kay Gonzales**

Astoria High School, Astoria, OR: **Kathryn Kinman**

Central High School, Pageland, SC: **Myra Coffey**

Richland High School, Richland, MS: **Colleen Sowell**

**Passed away: Joe Holbrook, Bergen County Academies, Bergen, NJ.**

## **Come to Boston in 2012**

Mark your calendar now for the 2012 National Convention. The Convention will be located in the heart of a great American city: Boston, Massachusetts. We are excited to bring Mu Alpha Theta to the home of clam chowder, Paul Revere and the historic Freedom Trail, the Boston Marathon, and over 30 colleges and universities. Expect some novel events and a few surprises. There will be a "Marathon" test, a totally different interschool test, new topic tests, and the third edition of the Mystery Test. Convention activities and lodging will be at the historic Boston Park Plaza hotel, located 2 blocks from Boston Common. The convention will be co-chaired by Dr. Thom Morris of Berkeley Prep and Sue Doker of Lincoln High School. Brandi Hillard of Vero Beach will be the Test Coordinator. **See you in Boston. (Note dates are earlier than usual!!)**

**July 8 - 13, 2012**

MAA has donated 100 copies of the DVD "**Hard Problems**" to Mu Alpha Theta. The DVD follows the American team preparing for and competing in the 2006 International Math Olympiad contest. If you would like a copy for your chapter to own, please email [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu) and request your FREE copy today.



# STUDENTS

## **Congratulations to the Newly Elected National Student Delegate Officers:**

**President, Hansol Kang**  
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**Vice President**  
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**Parliamentarian**  
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## **From the National Student Delegate President:**

Hello All,

I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself and my fellow national officers for the 2010-2011 year. I am Hansol Kang from Buchholz in Gainesville, Florida. In addition to my position as President, I represent Region IV. Sean Messenger, from Tahoma in Maple Valley, Washington, is the delegation Vice-President and represents Region I. Judy Wang attends Benjamin Franklin in New Orleans, Louisiana and will be serving as the 2010-2011 Secretary and Region II Representative. And from Region III, Jennifer Chu from Vestavia Hills in Vestavia, Alabama will be this year's Parliamentarian. We are all very excited to have this opportunity to serve as officers and aspire to working together to make a difference.

At this past year's convention in Washington D.C., the student delegates met daily. We took the time to get to know each other and set up a solid foundation for communication for the upcoming school year. Together, we culminated a plethora of ideas, all of which we are ecstatic to implement. Our primary goals for this 2010-2011 years are to increase and augment social activity, revive and encourage new competitions at the National Convention and to expand Mu Alpha Theta nationwide. Following the convention, the delegate officers as well as several other dedicated delegates have been in close contact and we are eager to make the upcoming convention in Dallas, Texas as well as future conventions better than ever.

If you are interested in any of the aforementioned ideas or anything at all, please contact me at [hansol\\_kang@yahoo.com](mailto:hansol_kang@yahoo.com) or through Facebook. I look forward to a year of progress and sadly my last yet highly anticipated, National Convention in Dallas. See y'all then!

--Hansol Kang

## **DON'T MISS OUT ON ALL THE BENEFITS OF MU ALPHA THETA MEMBERSHIP!**

Mu Alpha Theta members can win prizes, apply for Special Awards, Summer Study/Research Grants, Scholarships, and participate in our free mathematics contests right at your own school. Or, come to the National Convention and meet 500 other students who love math as much as you do!

Read below about all the opportunities to enjoy mathematics. Volunteer as a Study Buddy tutor or try your hand at Project Math Minds. Win money and prizes!

**We give away Free Stuff, too!** Want to explore Mathematica, a computer algebra system? Just tell your sponsor you want a copy of the software!

We have free copies of the DVD "Hard Problems" and TI graphing calculators for your chapter.

## Mu Alpha Theta Scholarships

Mu Alpha Theta will again award up to thirteen \$4000 scholarships this year. Any graduating High School senior or Two-Year College student who is an active member of a current Mu Alpha Theta chapter is eligible. The nominee should be an outstanding mathematics student and should have shown loyalty and dedication to their Mu Alpha Theta chapter, enthusiastically participating in local projects with evidence of service in the area of mathematics. Each chapter may submit applications for up to three students. It is up to the chapter sponsor to determine what names to submit, if more than three students wish to apply. One Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship has been designated as the **Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship**. The most outstanding student selected for a Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship will be designated as the winner of the Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship and will receive an additional \$1000. In addition to the qualifications above, this student will also have participated in local, regional and national mathematics competitions with distinction. Members may apply for these scholarships by downloading the application from the Scholarship link at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org). The application must be **postmarked before March 1, 2011**.

### Congratulations to the 2010 Scholarship Winners!

#### The Mary Rhein Scholarship

**Alexander T. Tir** of Riverside Academy in Reserve, LA

#### Mu Alpha Theta Scholarships

**Amy T. Fei** of Lafayette High School in Lafayette, LA

**Grant D. Ho** of Cypress Bay High School in Weston, FL

**Michael T. Lam** of Stephen F. Austin High School in Sugar Land, TX

**Trang Le** of Alfred M. Barbe High School in Lake Charles, LA

**Zhanxin (Lucy) Li** from Baton Rouge Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, LA.

**Justin Mathew** of Clarkstown South High School in West Nyack, NY.

**Eli H. Ross** of Rickards High School in Tallahassee, FL

**Rebecca T. Salinas** of Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes, TX

**Dennis C. Tseng** of William Mason High School in Mason, OH

**Victoria A. Villar** of Vero Beach High School in Vero Beach, FL

**Bertha P. Vo** of Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines, WA

**Eric S. Willett** of Saint Edward's School in Vero Beach, FL.

### Win a Free Trip to the National Convention

and

### Free TI Graphing Calculators

Sign up and work as an online tutor with STUDY BUDDY. We will be giving away four grants for free registration to the Dallas 2012 National Convention to the top tutors who help! TI is also providing free graphing calculators to encourage participation. See more information on page 11.

### Andree Award

**Interested in teaching Mathematics someday?** Our Educational Foundation provides \$2,500 to support one graduating Mu Alpha Theta member and one former member, who is a current four-year college student, who plan on becoming a mathematics teacher. If teaching is in your future, see the Andree Award application at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > Awards.

The 2010 Winners were **Stacey V. Luong** of Mount Rainier High School in Des Moines, WA and **Elizabeth L. Pruitt**. Elizabeth had attended Hoover High School in Hoover, AL prior to her graduation.

**Four Convention Grants are available this summer for a new chapter, that has not attended a National Convention in over five years and who has not had a grant before, to attend the 2012 Dallas Convention. The grant will provide free registration for one teacher and three non-senior students with up to \$2800 in funding. See National Convention > Attend Free for an application. Deadline is April 1 but sooner is better!**

## **Congratulations to our 2010 International Science Fair Award Winners!**

Mu Alpha Theta awarded each of the following students a \$1000 check at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair:

\* **Kate Alexandra Geschwind** of Mayo High School, Rochester, MN, for her project *Explaining Wind Farm Output Using Regression Analysis*

\* **Jia Hao Xu** of the High School Attached to Fudan University in Shanghai, China, for his project, *Simulation Study of Stable Metro Braking with Real Time Closed-Loop System Based on Optimization Model*

\* **Joshua William Pfeiffer** of North Shore Hebrew Academy High School in Great Neck, NY for his project *Super Kohler-Ricci Flow*

## **The Rocket City Math League**

The RCML is a free, year-long, international math contest open to all middle, high school, and two-year college students enrolled in Pre-Algebra through Calculus and above math courses. It is administered by the students at **Grissom High School** in Huntsville, AL supported by a grant from Mu Alpha Theta. Participants are placed into one of five divisions based on the level of math courses in which they are enrolled. Each division will be given three, 12-question tests lasting 45 minutes. A two-level, Inter-School team Test is also available.

Tests are sent to registered schools via email before each round, and scores are entered into an online database. Trophies are mailed to the top ranked students and schools at the end of the year.

Mu Alpha Theta also provides other prizes, as well, including copies of Mathematica, the DVD "Hard Problems", and TI Graphing Calculators. Testing dates for the 2010-2011 competition are:

- **Inter-School Test: November 29 – December 10, 2010**
- **Round One: January 17 – 28, 2011**
- **Round Two: February 14 – 25, 2011**
- **Round Three: March 14 – 25, 2011**

Register at [www.rocketcitymath.org](http://www.rocketcitymath.org).

For more info, visit our website at [www.mualphatheta.org](http://www.mualphatheta.org) > Contests > Rocket City.

## **2010 – 2011 Math Presentation Contest**

Mu Alpha Theta will again run a Math Presentation Contest. If you are interested in making an electronic math presentation or a video of you presenting a math topic, please download the 2010-2011 Math Presentation Contest rules and submission form from our website by clicking the Contests > Math Presentation link. Entries are due Feb. 7, 2011. A Presentation must be submitted electronically by attaching it to an email or uploading it online where it can be viewed. Submissions must be 5 to 10 minutes in length and include voice-over. Cash prizes will be between **\$100 and \$1,000** depending on the quality of the work. Each participant will win a copy of Mathematica, the computer algebra system software.

During our summer National Conventions, students present math Chalk Talks on selected topics. The Presentation Contest allows all members to try this event without ever leaving home. Winning entries will be posted online where other members can enjoy your presentation and learn from you! If you have any questions, email the National Office at [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu).

## **The Log 1 Contest** is an excellent opportunity for

schools to participate in a mathematics competition similar to our National Convention contests. Schools compete against other schools from across the country and the world, while staying right at their home school.

The 2010-2011 Mu Alpha Log 1 Contest will again be run by **Mount Rainier High School Math Team** in Des Moines, WA.

The contest will consist of three rounds. In the first two rounds, students take one of two tests. Students at different levels of education will only compete against other students at that level.

**The first round tests cover: Sequences/Series or Functions and will be available for download, Dec. 1, 2010.** These topics appear at multiple levels at the 2011 National Convention in Dallas. Each Topic Test will consist of fifteen open-answer problems to be solved without a calculator in thirty minutes. **The second round tests are Matrices/Vectors or Equations/Inequalities and will be available for download Jan. 16, 2011. The third round is an Individual test of general mathematics knowledge and will be available for download Mar. 1, 2011.** Problems will range from easy to difficult, to provide confidence and challenges to all students.

The top ten individuals in each division in each region will receive a plaque and the next fifteen will receive a certificate. The top ten schools in each region will receive plaques.

The Mu Alpha Theta Educational Foundation will provide the following cash awards to the top three schools in **each Region: \$1000 for first place, \$750 for second place, and \$500 for third place.** Other prizes will be awarded randomly to participating schools. To register or for further information, see <http://log1.wamath.net>.

## Summer Grants Impact Student Learning

Each year, Mu Alpha Theta offers Summer Grants of up to \$2000 for Full members to work on a mathematical research project or attend a summer mathematics course not available at their high school or Two-Year College. Would you like to participate in a program like those described below? Here are reports from two of this year's recipients:

**Adam H. Su** is from Cinco Ranch High School in Katy, TX and attended the **Ross Mathematics Program** at Ohio State University (<http://www.math.ohio-state.edu/ross/>).

Adam's Program Comments:

"Ross is centered on the self-discovery of a relatively esoteric branch of math, namely number theory. In the beginning we start with the axioms of the integers, rules as basic as " $a = a$ ," yet using just these axioms, we prove beautiful results such as Fermat's Little Theorem, Quadratic Reciprocity, and Pell's Equation. These results take days rather than hours, and the numericals, unfruitful ideas, and lemmas require much, much more time. We tackle problems as if they aren't known; we become eternal skeptics, abandoning faulty conjectures, salvaging them, and proving every "trivial" step until we have an undeniable theorem, which we use again in even more complicated proofs. Part of the Ross spirit is individual drive within the context of the Ross community. The counselors become your best friends, and discussions of problem sets (which regularly push past midnight) become invaluable bonds where two minds explore foreign, amorphous ideas. In a sense, Ross has the feel of a cutting-edge research group with a balance of rigor and creative, unexpected results. Ross alumni not only master number theory but also leave with an instinctive feel for solving very hard problems. They will be the future's leading researchers.

Thank you and MAO for your support! Ross was life-changing."

**Kevin Y. Chen** is from William P. Clements High School in Sugar Land, TX and attended the Texas Mathworks program at Texas State University (<http://www.txstate.edu/mathworks/>).

Kevin's Program Comments: "Mathworks has been an amazing experience for me! In only six weeks, I took classes, worked on mathematics research, played ferociously at night, and as a Junior Counselor, was able to help the newer campers with their classes.

This year I took Combinatorics and Analysis II, the former exposing me to a lot of interesting competition-math type problems, which I've enjoyed all throughout high school, and the latter allowing me to carefully understand the simple concepts that we had taken for granted in our high school calculus class. In between classes I worked with two other campers, who are both very close friends with me now, on a research project in graph theory concerning the modular chromatic number of graphs. Our research had a lot of ups and downs, and I learned a lot about being persistent and patient with our work.

The camp experience allowed me to feel very independent as I managed by myself when I should sleep, do work, buy groceries, or explore the Texas State campus. We always have lots to do, and one particularly fun weekend for me included rafting down the Guadalupe River and then playing Frisbee with all my friends here and even with the professors who teach us! I'm sure that compared with other camps I've been to, none of them have campers and teachers who are as close and remarkable as in this one. I would highly recommend this camp for anyone who wants to not only enjoy math but also meet friendly and amazing people while having a great time."

If you are interested in applying for a grant, apply after you are accepted to your program. The application can be found at our website under Scholarships > Summer Grants. Email [matheta@ou.edu](mailto:matheta@ou.edu) to find out if money is available before submitting the grant application.





# SPONSORS



## GOVERNING COUNCIL NEWS

Each year the Governing Council of Mu Alpha Theta meets during the National Convention and again in January or February. The Governing Council is the Board of Directors of Mu Alpha Theta, our Educational Foundation, and Chi Alpha Mu, the National Junior Mathematics Clubs. It is composed of a President, Past-President or President-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, four Regional Governors, four Representatives from the national mathematics organizations NCTM, MAA, SIAM, and AMATYC, and the Executive Director of our organization, Kay Weiss. Members of the Governing Council are responsible for all financial and organizational decisions for our non-profit organizations. At the summer meeting, the following decisions were made:

- Any Mu Alpha Theta sponsor who has a USAMO finalist should contact the National Office. We will provide a seat at the State Department award banquet and other financial support so they can attend the award ceremonies.
- There was discussion about allowing Geometry students to become Full members of Mu Alpha Theta. It was decided NOT to change our admittance criteria at this time.
- **Four Convention Grants of \$2800 each will be awarded by the Educational Foundation for new chapters to attend the 2011 Dallas National Convention.**
- Mu Alpha Theta and its Educational Foundation will continue to fund all free contests, grants, awards, and scholarships.
- The 2012 National Convention was approved for Boston, MA. Earlier dates were chosen to get a hotel rate that was affordable and the hosts will cut line items, as necessary, to keep the cost down since this is such an expensive tourist city.
- A committee was set up to suggest new chapter awards to recognize more outstanding chapters.

Congratulations to the President-Elect of the Governing Council, Carol Botzner, from Lakota West High School in West Chester, OH and to the newly elected Governors of Regions 3 & 4, Betty Hood, from Brentwood High School in Brentwood, TN, and Sam Koski, from Miami Springs Senior High School in Miami Springs, FL. Thomas Kilkelly will be joining the Governing Council as well, replacing Carol Botzner as the representative from NCTM.

### Rubin Award

The Diane Rubin Award was established in 2004 and is presented to the Mu Alpha Theta chapter which has a history of outstanding mathematics service to its community or its school for at least two years. This service must promote interest in mathematics and benefit a group other than its own chapter. A prize of \$500 and a distinguished plaque are awarded to the winning school. The award is presented at the National Convention, but a representative of the chapter need not be present to win. However, the school will receive a Convention Grant worth \$2800 to attend the Dallas Convention to accept the award, should they decide to attend. Applications are available online and due March 1, 2011.

The 2010 winner of the Rubin Award was East Anchorage High School from Anchorage, Alaska.

Remember to get permission from the National Office before using Mu Alpha Theta's name on your Facebook page or on other social networking sites. A teacher or other approved adult must have administrative oversight of any site using our name.

### Pi Day Idea:

We celebrate "Pi Day" for a week by making hot dessert pies during lunch with a "Hot & Toasty Sandwich maker". Buttered slices of bread are filled with chocolate, marshmallow, or fruit fillings, toasted then dusted with powdered or cinnamon sugar. Triangle shape allows for other math symbolism, so you could do this on other dates. Pies sold for \$.50 each and we had a net profit of about \$100 a day...the smell alone tempts many repeat customers!

**From Cheryl Star, Gilmer High School, Ellijay, GA**



Aneel Devraju, Mikaela Wilk, Santosh Adhikari and Erik Per Baken from North Lake College won a Convention Grant to attend the 2010 Washington, DC National Convention with their Sponsor, Ellen Miller, They took home a trophy, too!

### Chi Alpha Mu

The National Junior Mathematics Club is looking for new chapters. Would your feeder middle schools enjoy a mathematics club to stimulate student interest in mathematics? Have them see us online at [www.chialphamu.org](http://www.chialphamu.org). Chartering a chapter is a one-time fee of \$15 and there is no charge for new members. We have free Tinkerplots books and software from Key Curriculum Press to give out.

### A GREAT IDEA TO TRY –

Run a Math Expo for your school. Set up stations with math activities manned by your members.

#### Station Ideas:

Pascal's Triangle, Fibonacci Sequence, Golden Ratio, 3 Doors, 3 Houses, Tangrams, Quilt Patterns, Attribute Blocks, Pi, Pi – Pick Up Sticks, Paper Folding, Platonic Solids, State Machine, Bouncing Ball – CBR, Walk the Curve – CBR, Height/Wing Span, Pi Eating Contest, Probability, Normal Distribution, Networks, Bin Packing, Math Quiz Bowl, Math in Physics, Math in Art, Applied Math – Pipe Bending, Math at the Amusement Park, Accident Reconstruction, Have You Ever Wondered?, Dominos, Brain Teasers/Puzzles, Dart Board - Make the Number, Twister/X-Y Plane, Conic Sections, Geodesic Dome, Mobius Strip, Fair Division, Fractals/Snowflake Curve/Serpinski's Triangle

**From Melissa Mauchenheimer, Washington High School, Washington, MO**

### Thomas A. Edison Preparatory High School, Tulsa, OK



Senior officers for 2009-2010: Kathryn Sawyer (Pres), Taylor Elise Johnson (Sec/Treas), and Semone Wilson (VP) (Look at the hands.)



## Win a free trip to the National Convention

The National Science and Technology Education Partnership (NSTEP) is continuing to partner with Mu Alpha Theta high school chapters to bring free math tutoring to struggling students nationwide. This year tutoring will commence on October 3, 2010 with an objective of reaching out to 40,000 students in need. Please continue to read for exciting changes and enhancements to the program, as well as prizes that you and your school can win!

**Study Buddy** is a cutting edge web based online peer-to-peer tutoring program designed to address low math scores of underperforming middle and high school students. This homework assistance program utilizes the latest interactive, collaborative technology to bring students from different locations across the country together for online math homework help. Study Buddy relies solely on volunteers like you to help struggling students.

**Convenience** – Volunteering from your computer after school or at home, in the evening and/or on the weekend, the ability to schedule yourself in half hour segments and having the flexibility to choose when you wish to help makes Study Buddy an easy volunteer option.

**Students** – As a Mu Alpha Theta high school member, you will be paired with students who are struggling and may not otherwise have access to a tutor due to economic and/or geographic reasons. Student tutors commit to tutoring one hour per month. Your participation will be tracked by software and will serve as community service credit hours. Your unique tutor log book tracks your community service hours and saves your tutoring sessions automatically. In addition, you can grant access to your book to the college admissions offices of your choice so that they may use your tutoring experience as a factor in their admissions procedure.

**Teachers** - We encourage you to enroll your Mu Alpha Theta members in Study Buddy and can do so with minimal effort! Detailed reports of tutor activity will enable you to monitor your students' participation in the program.

## 2010-2011 Incentives

**Study Buddy is a proud partner of Texas Instruments and periodically offers prizes which may range from a T-shirt to a new Texas Instruments graphing calculator to student tutors. Other tutor incentive programs and competitions are announced periodically throughout the school year.**

**Additionally, this year NSTEP will cover the cost of tuition for the Mu Alpha Theta convention in July 2011 in Dallas, Texas for the top four Mu Alpha Theta tutors (up to \$620 per tutor).**

NSTEP welcomes inquiries from both teachers and students. Please email them directly at [studybuddy@nstep-online.org](mailto:studybuddy@nstep-online.org) with questions about how you can integrate Study Buddy into your classroom or Mu Alpha Theta chapter! For additional information, please visit <http://www.studybuddyhelp.org> . Tutor registration is already underway!

# Get on the List for **FREE** Financial Literacy Curriculum for Your Classroom

At a time of widespread economic turmoil and financial challenges, it is important to give high school students the knowledge and skills needed to manage money wisely and to make smart decisions for the future.

**Building Your Future**, a program of The Actuarial Foundation, helps teachers do just that, providing accessible content and multiple real-world examples and practice opportunities. **Building Your Future** helps students easily grasp the essentials of personal finance, gives them multiple opportunities to practice core skills and showcases the real-world impact of the financial decisions they make.

The curriculum resource addresses the following topics

- **Book One: Banking** covers savings accounts, checking accounts, credit cards, and taxes.
- **Book Two: Financing** covers loans and interest, home loans, auto loans and insurance.
- **Book Three: Investing** covers bonds, stocks, mutual funds, risk and diversification and inflation.

Each chapter is classroom-ready with a Teacher's Guide that provides handouts and answer keys, instruction and assessment suggestions, definitions and additional resources and aligns to national mathematics and personal financial education standards.



## **To receive a donated set of *Building Your Future*:**

Email your name, school name and mailing address to [programs@actfnd.org](mailto:programs@actfnd.org). This program is open to **high school teachers** only. One individual set of materials will be forwarded to you, while supplies last. If desired, you will also be registered to receive a full classroom set (25 student books, 1 set of teacher guides) however, there is no guarantee of receiving a classroom set at this time, it simply allows interested donors to find you through The Actuarial Foundation's giving campaign.

You can download all the materials at no cost or order the materials at a nominal cost at:

[www.ActuarialFoundation.org/programs/youth/BuildingYourFuture.shtml](http://www.ActuarialFoundation.org/programs/youth/BuildingYourFuture.shtml) The Actuarial Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization.



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