
UETCTM News

Newsletter of the Upper East Tennessee Council of Teachers of Mathematics

Volume 8, Issue 5

<http://www.uetctm.org>

March, 2008

Final 2007-08 Meeting at ETSU, April 15

The fifth meeting of the academic year will be held at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City. The meeting will begin at 4:00 with refreshments and mingling in Rogers-Stout 328, followed by a short business meeting and announcements at 4:30. Then there will be three sessions to accommodate teachers at all levels:

Möbius Madness

Ivars Peterson, ETSU Basler Chair of Excellence – Rogers-Stout 328

Since its discovery in the 19th century, the astonishing one-sided, one-edged Möbius strip has confounded and fascinated generations of people, inspiring stories, magic tricks, patents, artworks, cartoons, playground equipment, and much else. Learn more than you ever thought possible about how a mathematical object conquered the modern world. (Suitable for teachers at all levels, K-college.)

Using the Three Stooges as a Data-source for Motivation of Statistics Students

Drs. Robert Davidson and Bob Gardner, ETSU – Rogers-Stout 327

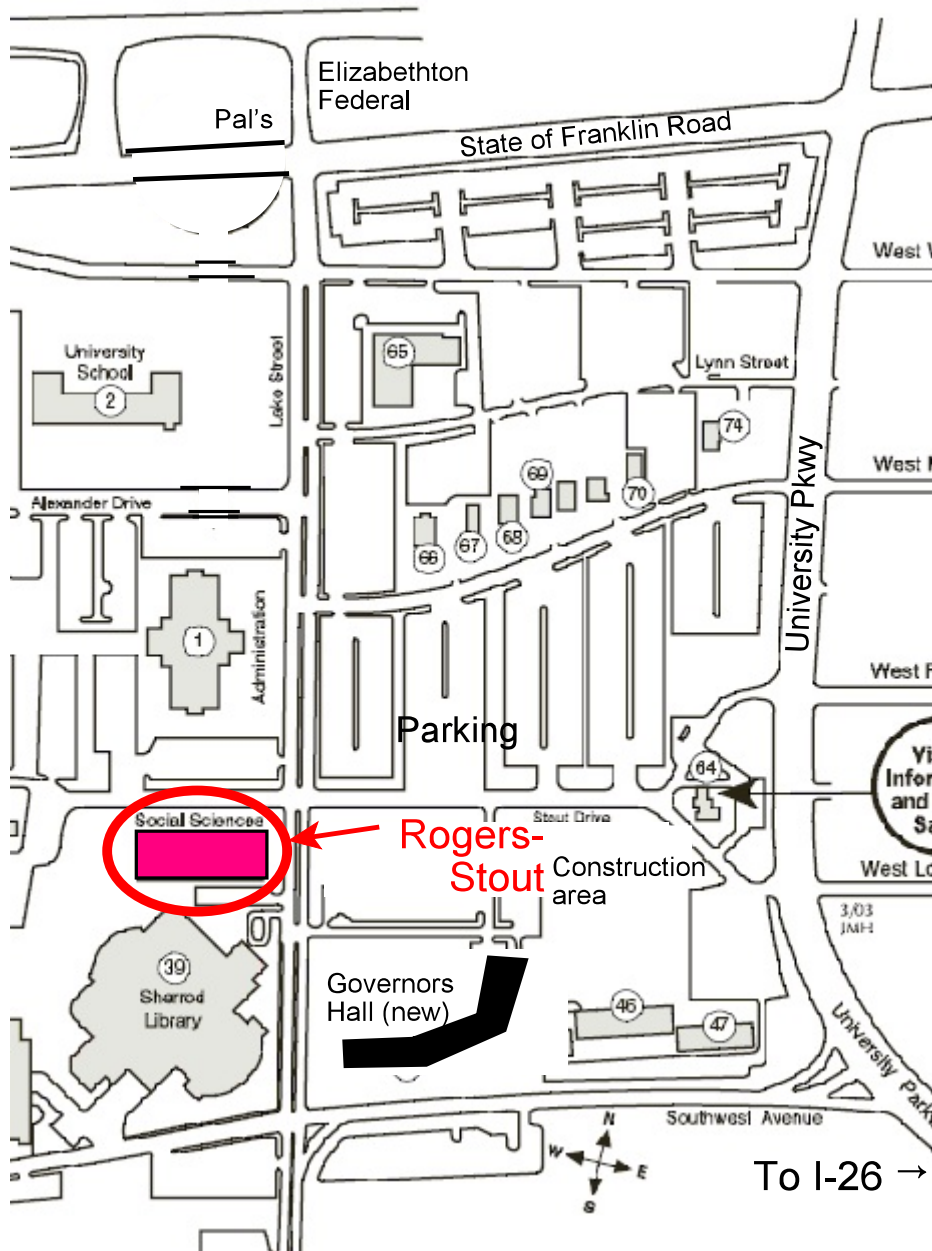
A common approach to engaging students in the undergraduate classroom is to present them with a topic from popular culture and to interpret the topic in light of the academic area at hand. The presenters will use films of the Three Stooges to provide data for students in an introductory statistics class. (Geared more for high school and college faculty.)

Mental Math for Fun and Contests

Dr. Daryl Stephens, ETSU – Rogers - Stout 401

There are all sorts of tricks to quickly do certain kinds of mental computations. Students in Texas from fifth grade up compete in mental math contests, and we will see some of the kinds of tricks they learn for the contest – tricks that can be easily taught in class as five-minute enrichment activities. (This presentation is of general interest, but of most interest to fourth grade through early high school.)

Directions to ETSU: A map of Johnson City showing routes to get to ETSU is available at <http://www.etsu.edu/etsu/files/MAPtoETSU.pdf>. From State of Franklin Road, turn south on Lake Street (the light across from Pal's), and Rogers-Stout is just past the second four-way stop. From University Parkway (coming from Elizabethton or the University Parkway/US 321 exit off I-26), turn at Southwest Avenue (there's also a sign showing "Central Receiving") and then turn right at the first four-way stop; Rogers-Stout is the four-story building on the left at the second four-way stop. Or you can turn left onto Stout Drive (across from W. Locust St.), and Rogers-Stout is at the first four-way stop. A printable campus map showing buildings and parking areas is available at <http://www.etsu.edu/maps/ETSUMap.pdf>.



Parking Information:
You may park in any student (gold curb), faculty (dark blue), or carpool (light green) space after 3:00. Avoid no parking (yellow), fire lanes (red), handicapped (light blue - it's OK if you have a permit), or 20-minute spaces.

Upcoming Events



April 18-19 (Friday-Saturday)

Tennessee Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges (TMATYC), Northeast State Technical Community College. Registration information is available at <http://tn.matyc.org>. Friday sessions are from 2:00 – 7:15. Saturday sessions run 8:00 – 1:30. Registration of \$50 includes Friday dinner and breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

TI-Nspire Workshop at Greeneville High School June 24-26

This will be held Tuesday through Thursday from 8:00-5:00 at Greeneville High School, 210 Tusculum Blvd. Exploring mathematics with TI-Nspire technology - These institutes, held at nationwide locations and facilitated by T³ Instructors, will focus on the integration of TI-Nspire technology into the classroom with the use of content-specific activities for Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, Precalculus and Calculus. The cost to attend is \$325. Each participant will receive a TI-Nspire handheld and TI-Nspire computer software. The online registration form is at https://baskowsecure.com/ei/getdemo.ei?id=185&s=_22O1D5CED. Look on <http://education.ti.com> for more information.

Middle School Math Day

Middle School Math Day will take place on Saturday, April 26 from 8am-2pm at Volunteer High School in Church Hill. We had a very positive response last year and look forward to an even more successful event this year. Students will be able to choose from a list of fun hands-on math games and activities and attend four 50-minute sessions during the day with a break for lunch (provided, of course) in the middle and a door prize giveaway at the end. Anyone interested in helping out may email Julia Grecol at grecolj@hck12.net or call 357-3641. Student application forms will be sent to area middle schools in February. Please encourage your students to attend. The event will be limited to 200 participants, so be sure your students apply early.

Free Workshop in July on Teaching Introductory Statistics

East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

Monday, July 14 - Thursday, July 17, 2008 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm on Monday through Wednesday and 9:00 am-2:00 pm on Thursday.

Presented by Roger Woodard, North Carolina State University and Scott McDaniel, Middle Tennessee State University

Details are at <http://www.causeweb.org/workshop/etsu/>.

Math Panel Releases Final Report

Editor's note: This article came from <http://www.nctm.org/news/content.aspx?id=14213#2> on March 18, 2008. It was part of the NCTM Member Legislative Update, which is sent to NCTM members approximately once a week.

Last Thursday [March 13, 2008], the National Mathematics Advisory Panel held its final meeting to release its final report to the president and the secretary of education. The final report, "Foundations for Success," focuses specifically on improving the teaching and learning of algebra in prekindergarten through grade eight, in an effort to improve achievement in higher levels of mathematics in high school. Findings of the report include recommendations to improve the areas of instructional policies, course content, learning processes, assessments, and professional development for instructors.

From the 16,000 studies reviewed for this report, the Panel presented 45 findings and recommendations based on the best evidence presented in these studies. Included in its findings, the report recommends increasing the emphasis on mathematics early in a student's educational process, specifically focusing on proficiency with numbers and knowledge of fractions. The Panel has offered a timeline of when students should master critical topics in order to succeed in algebra. The report also suggests either improving mathematics content knowledge of elementary school teachers, or utilizing teachers that specialize in elementary mathematics. In addition to improving the teacher and content quality in elementary and middle school math, the Panel recommends that the National Assessment of Educational Progress should be revised to provide an increased focus on mathematics skills critical to succeeding in algebra.

Supporting the findings of the Panel, Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings noted the positive correlation presented in the report between achievement in algebra and success in college and the workforce. She also emphasized the importance that all students succeed in mathematics, stating, "Studies have shown that it is effort, and not just inherent talent, that makes the critical difference between success and failure. When it comes to math, it seems hard science says it is truly worth the effort!"

Read NCTM's news release at <http://www.nctm.org/news/content.aspx?id=14136> and the final report at <http://www.ed.gov/mathpanel>. Also, read news articles at http://www.nctm.org/nctminthenews.aspx?ekmense=c580fa7b_20_558_572_2 that feature NCTM.

Call for Proposals for SVCTM Conference Sept. 13

This request comes from Susan Fleming of our neighbor organization, SVCTM.

Greetings:

I am in the process of planning the fall meeting of the Southwest Virginia Council of Teachers of Mathematics. I would like to have teachers from across our region present workshops so we can share our best teaching ideas with each other. I am e-mailing contacts in each school system in our region hoping to find math specialists or teachers who have ideas they would like to share at the conference. I would greatly appreciate your help in forwarding this to math specialists and teachers in your system who might be interested in presenting at the conference.

The conference will be Saturday, September 13. The theme this year is "Number Sense." Dr. Thompson from the University of Louisville will be our keynote speaker. I understand he worked on this topic with John Van de Walle. TI is also coming to do a workshop on the Navigator.

The presenter form can be printed from <http://www.vhcc.edu/sfleming/SVCTM/presenter.htm>, or I will be happy to e-mail it to anyone who is interested.

Thanks so much for any help you can give me in planning an informative conference.

Susan Fleming
Virginia Highlands Community College

Math and Science Education Conference May 29-30

The ETSU's Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education will host a math and science education conference at the Johnson City Millennium Center and Carnegie Hotel on May 29-30, 2008. The conference will bring together math and science teachers, policy makers, corporate leaders, state legislators, and Tennessee math and science education leaders. Conference presenters will focus on topics of interest in math and science education. Broaden STEM participation and workforce issues are major themes of the conference. Highlights of the tentative conference schedule include:

- National Math Panel: A Report from NCTM
- Important...But Not for Me: Students and Parents Talk About Math and Science Education (Public Agenda)
- Tools for Building Community Engagement and Support for High Quality Science/Math Education and Workforce "Pipeline"
- Critical Role of Industry in Science/Math Education Workforce: A Discussion One Year Later (Panel Discussion)
- A More Rigorous Math/Science Curriculum for Tennessee Students
- Content of Professional Development for Teachers: National Research Council
- International Look at Math and Science Education
- Tennessee revised math and science standards
- Business-Higher Education Forum Session
- What Research Says to Math and Science Teachers

Check <http://www.etsu.edu/cas/math/mathexcellence/index.jsp>, the website of the Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education, for more details later on.

Wanted: UETCTM Logo

To the best of anyone’s knowledge, UETCTM doesn’t have a logo. Does anyone want to dream one up? Let’s talk about it at the April meeting. Maybe you or one of your students might have a great idea for one. If you dream one up by the time of the meeting, bring it with you, either on paper or on a USB drive, CD, or floppy disk. The computer in Rogers-Stout 327 should have some Adobe software such as Photoshop on which to show it, or we can use the document camera to display a paper version.

UETCTM News is published online at www.uetctm.org approximately six times a year before each meeting of the UETCTM. Send articles, announcements, etc., to Daryl Stephens, president. Submissions may be in any of these formats: e-mail body, plain text (.txt), Word (.doc preferred to .docx), WordPerfect (.wpd), Rich Text Format (.rtf), Microsoft Publisher (.pub), or HTML.

<p>Officers of UETCTM for 2007-2008 <i>(New officers will be elected at the first meeting in Fall, 2008—please consider running!)</i></p>	<p>President Daryl Stephens ETSU Math Department Box 70663 Johnson City, TN 37614 Phone: (423) 439-4676 stephen@etsu.edu</p>	<p>President-Elect Dayna Smithers (becomes president in 2008) Division of Mathematics Northeast State Technical Community College PO Box 246 Blountville, TN 37617 (423) 354-2502 dbsmithers@NortheastState.edu</p>
<p>Past President Tara Peters Mathematics Coordinator Sullivan County Schools 4154 Sullivan Gardens Dr. Kingsport TN 37660 Phone: (423) 354-1793 tara.carverpeters@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary Guy Mauldin Science Hill High School 1509 John Exum Parkway Johnson City, TN 37604 Phone: (423) 232-2190 maulding@jcschools.org</p>	<p>Treasurer Floyd Brown Science Hill High School 1509 John Exum Parkway Johnson City, TN 37604 Phone: (423)232-2190 brownf@jcschools.org</p>