



# Math SPIN News

Newsletter of the NADE Math SPIN

<http://www.nademathspin.org>

Post-Conference Edition

April, 2006

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## From the Chair, Daryl Stephens



I can't believe it's already been two months since our conference in Philadelphia. Despite some of the setbacks - SPIN-sponsored sessions not getting included in the program, being given a room for our SPIN meeting that was much too small for our membership, etc. - I think it was a successful conference. Thank you for your participation in the conference and in the Math SPIN in general. I'm not sure whether your re-electing me again as your chair is a sign of support or a sign that keeping me in office relieves others of taking on the job, but I'd like to encourage you to consider running for office in the SPIN or in NADE in general. (A couple of folks expressed an interest in doing so in the future - I have your names and will be seeking you out in a few months!) The SPIN

leader's job doesn't take an enormous amount of time, and is rewarding. People look up to you and contact you for your opinion because they think you actually know something (whether it's true or not). At any rate, I've enjoyed it and look forward to us accomplishing more things together. I'm really pleased to be working with Susan McClory. She was a co-chair of the program committee for the Albuquerque conference in 2005 and brings a wealth of experience.

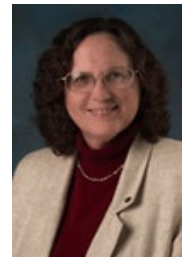
Please take a look at the [report from NADE 2006](#). We planned all sorts of SPIN-sponsored sessions for next year, and some people have volunteered to work on putting these sessions together, but they can use additional help. E-mail or phone me to get their contact information if you would like to help. We may need some other people to head up these sessions - the names of a couple of folks who volunteered at the meeting don't show up in the Math SPIN membership list that I got from NADE headquarters.

We also toyed with the idea of putting together some task forces to deal with some issues of common interest, but didn't have time to get names. If you would like to serve on one of the task forces, or have any ideas for future projects for the SPIN, please contact Susan or me.

Daryl Stephens  
Math SPIN chair  
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### From the Co-Chair, Susan McClory

Greetings! (For those of you old enough to remember the draft, that's a pretty scary way to start a message, isn't it? Sorry about that.) I'm also very sorry that I couldn't join you in Philadelphia. My travel allowance was not enough to get me there. I really missed being at NADE and having the opportunity to recharge my mental batteries. I always look forward to our meetings. It's exciting to be part of such a dynamic group of people.



It's time to start planning for our trip to Nashville. Submit your proposals to speak. Volunteer to either read proposals or help out in some other way. Having been part of a conference committee, I know how much volunteers are needed and appreciated. It's good to have that sense of being part of the conference and it will help you get more out of the experience.

If you would like to be part of one of the SPIN sponsored sessions or would like to put together a session of your own, let us know. The ideas that came up at the meeting in Philadelphia are listed in the report from NADE 2006 in this issue. There is also a list of ideas for task forces or sub groups listed in the report. Maybe there is a topic you are interested in that isn't on that list. Or, maybe you'd like to add your ideas to one that is already there. Either way, let us know so that we can put you together with others who are interested in your favorite topic.

We are a large group (over 500 members strong) and encompass an amazing array of talents and experiences. So, I urge you to share yours with the rest of us. We are all travelers on this path of lifelong learning and it's always good to have friends along on the journey.

I look forward to seeing you in Nashville.

Susan McClory

Co-Chair

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### Articles needed for next newsletter

If you have any meeting you'd like to plug, a book or program you'd like to review, an opinion you'd like to express, an idea or success (or failure) story you'd like to share, etc., please send it in for the next newsletter. Submissions can be anywhere from a paragraph long to several pages. E-mail it to Daryl Stephens ([stephen@etsu.edu](mailto:stephen@etsu.edu)) as a text, Word Perfect, Word, or RTF file or just in the body of an e-mail.

## Report from NADE 2006

Some 57 or so brave souls crowded into a too-small room for the annual meeting of the NADE Math SPIN. Daryl Stephens of East Tennessee State University was re-elected as SPIN chair and announced he would not be serving another term after this one. Though neither was able to attend this year's conference, Sandra Gamble of Grambling State University was re-elected as co-chair and Susan McClory from San Jose State University was elected as a new co-chair.



We noted that no SPIN-sponsored sessions were accepted at the 2006 conference from any of the SPINs, apparently due to a mix-up in the program committee. We decided to sponsor several sessions for next year and got volunteers as noted:

- Learning communities: Tom Pulver, Shelle Hartzel\*, Salem Chaaban, Michelle Thoele
- Online Learning: R. E. Moore and others to be recruited
- Technology: Laurie Laughery\*
- Placement and Retention: Judy Jones and Diane Noraas
- Adjuncts: Mickey Hay\* (perhaps-volunteered *in absentia* by others in attendance)
- Connections to Learning Centers: Carrye Wilkins, Carol Atnip, Ria Thomas
- Research on the transition from high schools to community colleges: Caroline Best

(The rejection of all SPIN-sponsored sessions was noted by several SPIN leaders, and we in the leadership are taking measures to prevent this from happening again next year.)

During some open discussion there was some interest in putting together task forces to investigate some of these issues – or at least encourage members to write articles and do presentations on these topics:

- Come up with a standard definition of success in developmental math and collect or locate some data on success rates nationally. What do we do to increase success rates?
- Investigate the effectiveness of computer remediation and other nontraditional forms of instructional delivery.
- What can we do with learning communities in math? For example, what course(s) would you match a developmental math class with?
- Look at formulating position statements or at least gathering and disseminating more information on the use of adjuncts to teach developmental courses, online learning, class sizes, and class formats.

We did not have time to get volunteers to work on these issues, so we need volunteers to serve on task forces to pull these off! Contact Daryl ([stephen@etsu.edu](mailto:stephen@etsu.edu) or 423-439-4676) if you'd like to help out.

Jan McGrath, editor of the *NADE Digest*, asked for at least one math person to join the editorial board of the *Digest*. We had one person volunteer to consider it, but there may be additional positions open. She stressed that editorial board members have actual work to do, and no one who just wants an easy way to pad a resume or faculty activities report should join the board. There is also a continuing need for additional math-related articles in the *Digest*.

\*Note: Some of the people who volunteered (marked above with an asterisk) are not on the current NADE membership list for the SPIN. If you are one of these people, or know one of these people, please contact Daryl Stephens ASAP.



## NADE 2007 Conference

"Developmental Education:  
Piecing It Together"

March 21-24, 2007.

Nashville, TN

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

Call for Volunteers is online now.

Call for Proposals will be up soon  
(and for those who attended NADE  
2006, a copy was in your  
conference bag). Proposals for presentations  
are due June 15.



<http://www.nade2007.net>

## Web Site

Check out your Math SPIN web site at <http://www.nademathspin.org>. There you will find archived versions of old newsletters dating back to the early 1990s, links to many places on the web related to teaching developmental math (which will be undergoing a revision process in late spring), and more.

## Yahoo! Group

Remember that we have an e-mail discussion group through Yahoo that is available to all developmental math faculty. To view the archives of all messages posted from the beginning, first get a free Yahoo account at <http://www.yahoo.com> if you don't already have one. Then sign in and visit this page: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mathspin/>.

To subscribe, send an otherwise blank e-mail to [mathspin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mathspin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To unsubscribe, send an e-mail to [mathspin-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mathspin-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com)

To post a message, send an e-mail to [mathspin@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mathspin@yahoogroups.com).

The Yahoo group site also allows us to post pictures, files, links, and surveys. Maybe we should take advantage of these. There is also an electronic calendar which we can use to post events of interest to the membership, such as conferences and workshops.

If you aren't on the list, please join us. It's free and will help you get more out of the experience of being a Math SPIN member.

## Houghton Mifflin Seeks Advisory Board of Developmental Math Instructors

*Editor's Note: From time to time, publishers contact the SPIN leadership asking for people to recommend for advisory panels, reviewers, etc. Lynn Cox, the Senior Sponsoring Editor for Houghton Mifflin's Developmental Math, sends out this request. Naturally, the Math SPIN does not endorse or condemn any particular textbook series. Any other publishers who would like to make similar requests for advisory panels are welcome to contact the leadership and we will be glad to pass them along to the membership.*

I am interested in your thoughts on what textbook publishers are doing right, where we could improve, and what sorts of resources we should develop to help your students be more successful! I am also interested in what you feel the next generation of developmental math learning materials should look and feel like, as well as how they should be delivered (podcasts?!)?!

In addition, Houghton Mifflin is setting up a Developmental Math Advisory Board, which will assist us on an ongoing basis in shaping and refining new student-centered learning materials. I am hoping you might be interested/willing to participate in that capacity as well!

Lynn B. Cox, Senior Sponsoring Editor

Aufmann/Developmental Mathematics, Houghton Mifflin

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## Professional Development Opportunities

### “Revitalizing Your Developmental Mathematics Courses: An Activity-Based, Context-Driven Approach”

Explore ways of getting students out of their seats to actively investigate workplace-oriented problems. Held from June 18-23, 2006 at the Foothill Conference center on the University of California-Berkeley campus, this workshop is offered as part of the MAA’s Professional Enhancement Program (PREP). The only cost to participants is a \$250 registration fee and travel to and from Berkeley. The workshop is intended primarily for community college faculty who teach developmental mathematics at the elementary and intermediate algebra level.

Workshop leaders are Gary Simundza (Wentworth Institute of Technology) and Nancy Crisler (Washington University).

Register for the workshop at [www.maa.org/prep](http://www.maa.org/prep). More detailed information is at [www.teachmathapplications.com/maaprep.htm](http://www.teachmathapplications.com/maaprep.htm).

PREP is funded by NSF/DUE grant #0341481.

### AMATYC Summer Institutes

The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges is holding four summer institutes which might be of interest to our members. Go to <http://www.amatyc.org/Events/summer-institutes.htm> for links to more details. The four institutes are:

- AMATYC Outer Banks Summer Institute (<http://www.amatyc.org/Events/Sum-Inst/2006-06-18-23Summer-Institute.pdf>)  
“Developmental Algebra Using a Function Approach”  
Duck, North Carolina, June 18 – June 23, 2006
- AMATYC Teacher Preparation Summer Institute (<http://www.amatyc.org/Events/Sum-Inst/2006-06-22-26SI.pdf>)  
Green River Community College, Enumclaw, WA, June 22-26, 2006
- AMATYC Summer Institute in Hawai’i: “Mathematics in Hawai’i”

(<http://www.amatyc.org/Events/Sum-Inst/2006Hawaii.pdf>)

Hilo, Hawaii July 24-28, 2006 (Registration form)

- AMATYC Summer Institute: Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum (MAC3) ([http://www.mac3.amatyc.org/2006\\_institute.html](http://www.mac3.amatyc.org/2006_institute.html))  
Sleeping Lady Mountain Retreat, Leavenworth, WA, August 1 – 4, 2006

## Net Goodies

*In this column we spotlight some web sites of interest to developmental math faculty. Feel free to pass along your suggestions for future issues.*

### Latest Draft of *Beyond Crossroads* is now online

AMATYC, the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, has published draft version 7 of *Beyond Crossroads*, a document giving position statements about teaching freshman and sophomore courses. You can read the latest draft at <http://amatyc.org/Crossroads/CROSSROADS/index.htm>. Several SPIN members are also involved in this.

## Reminder

Due to the high cost of postage, the Math SPIN newsletter is not printed and mailed out. It is posted on the Math SPIN web page. An e-mail is sent out to let folks know when a new newsletter is posted. If you want to continue to receive notifications about the newsletter, you need to keep your contact information current with the NADE office. Send changes of contact information to the NADE office, e-mail [office@nade.net](mailto:office@nade.net), phone (877) 881-9876, fax (419) 423-9078, or write to 2447 Tiffin Avenue #207, Findlay, OH 45840.