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TO: THE NADE DEVELOPMENTAL MATHEMATICS COMMITTEE
(aka Mathematics SPIN Group)
FROM: Betsy Darken, Chair

A directory of committee chairs is on the last page of this newsletter.

Please come to Nashville!

I hope that everyone will be able to attend the annual NADE conference in Nashville, Tennessee on March 6-9, 1991. As usual our committee will have its annual meeting at this conference, working on both ongoing and new projects. In addition various subcommittees have planned activities:

1. a pre-conference NADE/MAA workshop on placement;
2. a program which presents innovative ideas in developmental math;
3. a presentation by the effectiveness subcommittee of a model for evaluating effectiveness, including several case studies;
4. a newcomers' session in which a panel of oldtimers will address questions on such classic topics as tutor training, curriculum, etc.; Call for Proposals: this session is currently being organized. Please read the enclosed flyer!
5. a "math homeroom" like the one we had last year, containing posters and serving as a depository for extra handouts;
6. a survey for a directory of all math people in NADE which will include
7. information regarding their programs and areas of expertise.

I also expect that there will be many other good talks, having reviewed many promising proposals for the conference planners.

Subcommittee Activities

Effectiveness Study (Betsy Darken & Roberta Yellott)

Members of the subcommittee are currently reviewing a draft for evaluating program effectiveness, focusing on statistical measures of effectiveness, particularly subsequent performance. I have also established a liaison with the Evaluation Subcommittee of the AMATYC Developmental Mathematics Committee (the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges). They have been sent

copies of the above mentioned draft.

Between now and March this subcommittee expects to continue developing its model and conducting several pilot effectiveness studies.

Curricular Reform (?)

Unfortunately this critical committee is currently headless. If anyone wishes to volunteer as chair, please call me! I regard the business of this committee as our single most important long-term project. We will focus on this topic at our annual meeting in Nashville.

Poster Session/Overview for NADE 1991 (Sandi Orr)

Sandi is focusing our second annual panel discussion/poster session on newcomers, as described earlier. If you are interested in participating in this session please see the enclosed flyer.

Innovative Techniques (Pansy Brunson & Gwen Terwilliger)

Pansy and Gwen have prepared a panel discussion on innovative techniques. They chose participants after soliciting proposals from the Math SPIN group this past spring, and are planning to use a question and answer format with time for group discussion.

Directory (Patty Cass and Kathy Happier)

This subcommittee is drafting a survey to gather information from all Math SPIN group members for use in an annotated directory. They are hoping to distribute this survey soon and compile the directory this year.

Placement (Ginny Hamilton)

Ginny and Geoffrey Akst, a member of the MAA Committee on Testing as well as a member of our NADE committee, have arranged for this MAA group to give a pre-conference workshop on the ins and outs of placement testing. The people who run this MAA road show are very experienced, so members who have questions about placement are urged to attend.

Videotape

The videotape project is lying dormant for lack of funds, etc. Anyone interested in resurrecting this project may raise this issue in Nashville or call me.

Liaison

We have made progress with an AMATYC liaison. I have been attending their national conferences and have found our counterparts receptive to joint projects. The AMATYC executive committee has given us permission to include articles in the Dev. Math Committee newsletter, so I have submitted an announcement of our March meeting. In addition members of the AMATYC evaluation subcommittee have been put on our effectiveness subcommittee's mailing list.

In the next year I hope we can pursue the possibility of working on a curriculum project with our colleagues in several mathematical organizations, such as AMATYC, NADE and MAA. The NCTM has launched a major campaign aimed at K-12 curricular reform. Other organizations and coalitions, including the MAA and the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (Zalman Usiskin, Director), are also involved in updating and enlivening the curriculum. It is high time for developmental educators to seriously consider reform of the traditional developmental mathematics curriculum, preferably in conjunction with other reformers.

Advertisement

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is advertising a tenure-track position for a doctorate in mathematics or mathematics education with an interest in freshmen/sophomore curricular reform. Please apply to:

Dr. John Jayne, Head
Department of Mathematics
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598

Directory for Developmental Mathematics SPIN Group

SPIN Chair

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Effectiveness Study

Betsy Darken (see above)
Roberta Yellott, McNeese State University
PO Box 92340
Lake Charles, LA 70609

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H: (318) 478-5186

Newcomers' Session/Poster Session

Sandi Orr, W.V. State College
5318 Bent Brook Rd
Cross Lanes WV 25313

W: (304) 766-3377

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Innovative Techniques

Pansy Brunson
Community College: Western Ky University
Bowling Green KY

W: (502) 745-6481

Gwen Terwilliger. Univ. of Toledo/ComTech
2801 W. Bancroft
Toledo, OH 43606

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Directory

Patty Cass, Columbus St. Comm. College
Columbus, OH 43215

W: (614) 227-2620

Kathy Huppler. Saint Cloud St. Univ.
ECC 260, 720 4th Ave S.
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Placement

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