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# *Developmental Mathematics*

## *Newsletter*

**Math SPIN Group of the National Association for Developmental Education**

January 1992

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### **Chairperson's Report**

by Betsy Darken

This year may well mark a turning point for our SPIN group. Our biggest news is that Bill Thomas and other members of the mathematics SPIN group have launched a major curricular reform project. Please read the curriculum committee article and the insert for further information about this exciting project. Next I am pleased to report that I am penning my last pseudo-newsletter: starting with our next issue, Kathy Huppler will be our newsletter editor! This will undoubtedly mark a major step forward in communications, especially in regard to regularity of publication.

I want to urge everyone to come to the 1992 NADE conference. This conference offers the opportunity not only to hear many fine talks on developmental mathematics, but also to network with our colleagues and exchange useful information. In particular our SPIN group meeting will be a time to work on you or continuing projects of our subcommittees. Without good participation in this meeting we cannot sustain the level of activities we have managed in the last few years.

Finally, because of family obligations I am considering stepping down as chair of this SPIN group at the end of the year. I am now the proud mother of a five-month-old baby boy (Robert Darken Ellington), and I have discovered that motherhood is far more time-consuming and I have naively assumed B. B. (Before Bobby). Since he was born in late August I have had very little time to devote to my professional  
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### **Curriculum Committee Goes for the Moon!**

About this time last year William Thomas agreed to share our mathematics curriculum committee after we discussed the importance of a major curricular reform. I am extremely pleased to report that Bill took the bull by the horns and outlined a grand plan to organize and national curricular reform project. The co-chairs of all of our committees were invited to a special meeting, and in early August of 1991 the Chattanooga 11 8/9 gathered to make a battle plan for the project. (I was eight months pregnant at the time.)

Within the next month and a half this group produced a major National Science Foundation proposal, spearheaded by Bill and his colleagues Gwen Terwilliger and Marie Hoover at the University of Toledo Community and Technical College. Many people in the group became intimately acquainted with faxes, FedEx and Overnight Express mailings. I myself have a vivid memory of typing madly on my Macintosh while bouncing my two-week old baby on my knee, then thrusting the pages at his grandmother who hurtled off to the post office just before closing.

Since those frenetic days the group has whipped off another proposal to the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. In early January we reconvened in Louisville to plan further activities and to give a title to our project: *Restructuring the Mathematical Bridge: Mathematics Reform for Underprepared College Students*. We have also received the endorsements of NADE and the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges. Enclosed in this newsletter is a summary description of our project.

### **Chairperson's report** *continued*

activities, as evidenced by the late date of this "fall newsletter." At the request of the NADE board, I have agreed to remain SPIN group chair for this year but with the stipulation that I acquire a co-chair. My plan is to evaluate my situation toward the end of the year to determine if I am serving the SPIN group well by remaining as chair. However, if the SPIN group would prefer a change of chair sooner, I will be glad to relinquish the chair completely in the March meeting. In any case I am now soliciting suggestions for a person to serve as co-chair for the rest of this year. I have enjoyed working with this SPIN group and I hope that I can continue to serve the group in a useful capacity in future years.

### **Annual NADE Conference: San Antonio, TX, Feb 26 - March 1**

As directed by the Math SPIN last year, I submitted a number of requests to the 1992 conference scheduling committee to improve scheduling for this year. As you can see from the conference announcement for 1992, a number of our requests were heeded. In particular our SPIN group meeting is being held at the beginning of the conference and is not in conflict with any sessions. Specifically:

#### **The Math SPIN Group Meeting Thursday, Feb. 27 8:30 to 9:30 AM, Frio room**

The agenda for our SPIN meeting will include reports from our committees and from the task force organizing the curricular reform project. In addition will have a short presentation by Pansy Brunson on study skills designed for mathematics students. Please come! Everyone will have the fringe benefit of getting introduced to each other at the beginning of the conference, so that we can spend the rest of the conference buttonholing each other to talk about issues, committee business, etc.

### **Effectiveness project**

After the last conference, the effectiveness committee produced an improved draft of its effectiveness model. However, work on this project has been delayed because the chair of the committee (yours truly) went off and had a baby. I apologize for failing to appoint someone in my place while I took on motherhood. Now that I'm back from maternity leave it had a co-chair, Roberta Yellott, we should be able to produce and disseminate a final draft. The San Antonio meeting will be an important time to proceed with plans for this project. It should be noted that our current draft of the model has already been used by the task force for *Restructuring the Mathematical Bridge* as a starting point for evaluating curricular changes.

### **Other Activities**

Work on a directory has been postponed until someone volunteers to chair or co-chair this project. A positive development is that NADE has made progress on organizing its database, so our math directory may become more feasible. If anyone is interested in pursuing this project, please contact me.

Work of other committees has been subsumed under the major new curricular reform project described elsewhere.

### **Kathy Huppler is Newsletter Editor!**

Kathy Huppler of the University of Minnesota has volunteered to the newsletter editor for our Mathematics SPIN group. Kathy has been a very active Math SPIN group member for several years, most recently serving as co-chair of the directory committee. She is currently serving as chair of the dissemination committee for the curriculum project *Restructuring the Mathematical Bridge: Mathematics Reform for Underprepared College Students*. Kathy has many good ideas for organizing our newsletter and networking with other organizations. Thank you, Kathy!