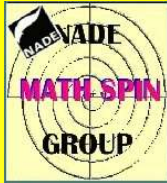


Math SPIN News

Newsletter of the NADE Math SPIN Group

June 2004



In This Issue

From the chair	1
Annual SPIN Meeting	2
Conference Session Ideas Brainstormed	2
NADE 2005	3
Update on Web Site: Old newsletters added . . .	3
Get Involved! Opportunities for Professional Service . .	4

From the Chair

The NADE conference in St. Louis was a great success, as usual. Many colleagues presented interesting and helpful sessions. This year our Math SPIN meeting was in the middle of the day on Friday, and we had 80 people attending a very productive meeting. During that time we brainstormed session ideas for next year's conference and came up with some goals for the SPIN. These are listed in this newsletter.

Also during the meeting you re-elected Diane Martling and me as the official leadership for a second year. We appreciate your vote of confidence and hope to help you make the Math SPIN one of the most active groups in NADE.

For our SPIN to be even more successful, we will need input and collaboration from many people, some of whom will no doubt become future leaders of this organization. Some of the ideas generated at the meeting have the potential to involve many members! Please consider helping out and collaborating with your colleagues. In this issue you will find several opportunities for involvement in this organization.

Whether you are teaching, taking classes, working around the house, or embarking on some great adventure, I wish you a wonderful summer.

Daryl Stephens

MathSPIN logo created by
Shawna Mahan, original
MathSPIN webmaster.

Synopsis of Annual Meeting

March 12, 2004

Adams Mark Hotel, St. Louis

- Daryl Stephens and Diane Martling were re-elected by acclamation as chair and co-chair, respectively.
- The NADE executive board was unable to complete negotiations with a textbook publisher which had offered to print *Best Practices in Developmental Mathematics, volume 2* for us for free. As a result, plain printed copies were sold for cost of \$5 each. (More copies are available – contact [Diane Martling \[dmartlin@harpercollege.edu\]](mailto:dmartlin@harpercollege.edu) to purchase copies at \$5 plus \$2 for postage.) The book is also now posted on our web site as a free PDF download.
- At the suggestion of the Yahoo group moderator, the SPIN voted not to implement the rules that were proposed in the February newsletter. They were deemed unnecessary and too much trouble.
- A group brainstorming session took place to set goals for the upcoming year and suggest topics for SPIN-sponsored sessions. Results are posted in the next column.

Make sure you get your SPIN newsletters!

Because of budget constraints, we can't print and mail every newsletter. We get a list of e-mail addresses of SPIN members from the NADE office, and every time we send out a newsletter there are a dozen or two that come back because the e-mail address isn't valid. If you move to another institution, or your e-mail address changes for some reason (such as the college changing domain names), please make sure you change that information with the NADE office. You can send an e-mail to office@nade.net or call toll free 1-877-881-9876.

SPIN Meeting Brainstorms Ideas for 2005 Conference Sessions

During the SPIN meeting we came up with a list of topics people would like to see covered at the 2005 conference. If you want to make a presentation next year, but need some ideas, try these. The ones marked with an asterisk already have some volunteers to collaborate on a SPIN-sponsored session, but there should be room for related sessions – after all, we can always use new activities for our classes.

- Math reform*
- Problem-based learning
- Assessment
- Idea sharing - panel discussion - activities*
- Lesson ideas
- Writing in math
- Placement and diagnostic testing
- Tutor training
- Concept of learning centers
- Teaching math to disabled populations and "seasoned" (nontraditional) students
- Developmental math at four-year schools
- Helping adjunct faculty
- Structure of developmental programs

In addition to suggesting topics for future conference presentations, the group also suggested some goals for the SPIN. Not all of them were placed in our official activity report, but all of them are worth a look: Sponsor session(s) at NADE 2005.

- Continue discussions on Yahoo group.
- Publish newsletters.
- Investigate having subcommittees.
- Publish proceedings of math sessions from recent conferences.
- Develop a resource list and compilation of software reviews both as a column in the newsletter and a part of the web site.
- Develop a bibliography on how to help someone teach math.



NADE 2005

Make plans to join the Southwest Association for Developmental Education (SWADE) in Albuquerque, NM next March 9 - 13 for the 29th Annual NADE conference. Visit the website at <http://planet.tvi.edu/nade2005/> for information about the conference and opportunities to volunteer.

As program co-chair and a Math SPIN member, I would be more than happy to hear from you with any suggestions you might have to make this a great conference. I learned a lot from the comments made at the SPIN meeting in St. Louis, but there's still time to have some input.

I hope you are planning to present. We want to have a lot of good math sessions to attend at the conference. And, if you want to try your presentation out on a small audience and have a little fun at the same time, consider presenting at the annual SWADE conference to be held in Las Vegas on November 4 - 5. For more information about SWADE, go to <http://www.swade.info/>

I hope to see you all in Albuquerque next year!

Susan McClory

NADE 2005

Program Co-Chair

Update on Web Site

Daryl recently received the Math SPIN archives, which included most of the newsletters dating back to 1990. He has now scanned all the old newsletters he has and turned them into searchable PDF files. The old newsletters are now posted on the same page as the other newsletters. However, there are no newsletters at all from 1995 or 1996. If you have a copy of a newsletter that is not posted on the website, please consider making a copy and mailing it to Daryl Stephens (Box 70663, Johnson City, TN 37614) so it can be scanned and added to the web site. Even better, if you made a newsletter that is not up and still have the computer files, e-mail them to him (stephen@etsu.edu) and we can post them.

What is on your Math SPIN web site?

(<http://www.etsu.edu/devstudy/spin/>)

- Online version of newsletters dating back to 1997 (with scans of some earlier ones dating back to 1990)
- Links to resources for developmental math
- Activity and annual reports (goals, accomplishments, etc.) and budgets sent to the NADE leadership
- Information about the Yahoo e-mail group
- Upcoming events (conferences, etc.)
- Both volumes of *Best Practices in Developmental Mathematics* in downloadable, printable PDF form
- Publications submitted by members

Check it out today!

Get Involved! Opportunities for Professional Service

by Daryl Stephens

During the SPIN meeting we not only brainstormed ideas for presentations, but also came up with other activities to consider. Your chair and co-chair can't do all these things by ourselves. That, however, is not a problem—it's an opportunity for collaborative effort that will benefit the profession (and look really good on your annual faculty activities report!).

Proceedings, Anyone?

In the past, a committee from NADE published an annual booklet called "selected conference proceedings" in which presentations were turned into articles of one to five pages. This was dropped after 2002 due to the high cost of paper publications. At the leadership workshop the day before the conference opened, some people expressed the desire to resume this publication at some point in the future. There was also a call for this during our SPIN meeting. I would propose that the Math SPIN publish its own proceedings of the math sessions of the 2003 and 2004 conferences. We can't afford to print one, but we could easily post one online on our Math SPIN website. To make this a reality, we need a committee of approximately two to six persons who would be willing to be referees and editors of such a publication. If we call this a refereed publication, we add prestige to the authors, editors, and the organization.

Some possible duties would include contacting people who made presentations at the 2003 and 2004 conferences to solicit manuscripts, editing manuscripts, reviewing submissions, writing an introduction, and assembling the manuscripts into a finished product. If the full NADE conference proceedings don't resume, this could turn into an annual project (but no one would be

obligated to do it more than once unless they wanted to!).

Technology Review Column

Another suggestion that popped up at the conference was adding a column to the newsletter or the web site (or both) that would review new software or technologies related to teaching developmental mathematics. Would anyone like to take this on either on an ongoing basis or send in a single review? There was also a desire for someone to compile a list of available technological resources, perhaps similar to the list of links on our web site.

Bibliography on Teaching Developmental Math

Here's yet another idea generated: A bibliography, which could be posted on the website, included in the newsletter, or tucked into the proceedings (see above), which lists articles, books, and other resources on how to teach developmental mathematics. There is an annotated bibliography on research in the field available from the National Center for Developmental Education (<http://www.ncde.appstate.edu/research.htm>), but it doesn't deal with teaching. Anyone interested in collaborating on a bibliography?

If anyone would be interested in supporting one or more of these projects with your time and service, please contact Daryl Stephens, chair (e-mail stephen@etsu.edu), or co-chair Diane Martling (dmartlin@harpercollege.edu).

Your contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. How about a short summary of something interesting your program is doing? Maybe you have an amusing insight from a student worth sharing. E-mail any submissions to Diane Martling, dmartlin@harpercollege.edu, as plain text or a Microsoft Word attachment.