

# NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN

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**The NEWSLETTER is a publication of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group**

*CMESG is a group of mathematicians and mathematics educators who meet annually to discuss mathematics education issues at all levels of learning. The aims of the Study Group are:*

- 1) to study the theories and practices of the teaching of mathematics
- 2) to promote research in mathematics education
- 3) to exchange ideas and information about all aspects of mathematics education in Canada
- 4) to disseminate the results of its work.

**Ce BULLETIN est une publication du Groupe canadien d'étude en didactique des mathématiques**

*Le GCEDM est composé de personnes oeuvrant en mathématiques et en didactique des mathématiques et qui se réunissent une fois par année pour étudier diverses questions relatives à l'enseignement des mathématiques à tous les niveaux. Les buts du Groupe sont les suivants:*

- 1) susciter une réflexion critique sur la théorie et la pratique de l'enseignement des mathématiques
- 2) encourager la recherche en didactique des mathématiques
- 3) faciliter l'échange d'idées et d'information sur tous les aspects de l'éducation mathématique au Canada
- 4) faire connaître les résultats de ses travaux.

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

Elaine Simmt

On behalf of the CMESG Executive I would like to thank members for their vote of confidence for us to take stewardship of this valued organisation. I would be remiss if I did not send a heartfelt thank you to our 2009/2010 executive with special thanks going to our outgoing executive members, Florence Glanfield (Alberta) for her term as president and Walter Whiteley (York) as member at large. Eva Knoll (Mount St. Vincent) deserves special thanks for agreeing to a second year as a co-opted member and Chantal Buteau (Brock) for agreeing to sit on the 2010/2011 executive as co-opted member. Rounding out the 2010-2011 executive are Laurent Theis (Sherbrooke), Doug Franks (Nipissing) and Peter Liljedahl (Simon Fraser).

A very loud thank you to the team from Simon Fraser University for their work hosting our 2010 annual conference and meeting. In spite of knowing that their community would be in an elevated state of excitement (and exhaustion), hosting the 2010 Winter Olympics, they agreed to host our meeting and pulled off a great conference. Thank you Peter Liljedahl, Rina Zazkis, Nathalie Sinclair, Sen Campbell, and graduate students, Shiva Gol Tabaghi, Simin Jolfae, Christian Bernéche, Paulino Preciado, Darien Allen and Sean Chorney.

At our annual meeting it was announced that Dave Wagner would be stepping down as newsletter editor and a call for his replacement was made. Ami Mamolo has stepped forward and Dave has agreed to mentor her into the process.

Other news includes a new form for the annual conference proceedings. After surveying our members we can report that 94% have indicated they would prefer having a choice of electronic copies of the proceedings of the annual meeting. Each member will make a choice for either electronic or paper proceedings when registering for the conference. This change will result in a change of membership fees from \$55 to \$35. Paper proceedings will be available at a cost of \$20.

Au nom de l'exécutif du GCEDM, j'aimerais remercier les membres pour la confiance dont ils nous ont témoigné lors des élections et qui nous permet de prendre en charge cette organisation. Je m'en voudrais de ne pas remercier notre exécutif de 2009/2010, et particulièrement Florence Glanfield (Alberta) pour son mandat comme président et Walter Whiteley (York), membre adjoint. Eva Knoll (Mount St. Vincent) mérite des remerciements pour avoir accepté un deuxième mandat comme membre co-opté et Chantal Buteau (Brock) pour avoir accepté de siéger sur l'exécutif du GCEDM en 2010 / 2011 comme membre co-opté. Laurent Theis (Sherbrooke), Doug Franks (Nipissing) et Peter Liljedahl (Simon Fraser) complètent l'exécutif pour 2010-2011.

Des remerciements chaleureux également pour l'équipe de l'Université Simon Fraser qui a organisé notre rencontre annuelle de 2010. Malgré qu'ils savaient que leur communauté serait dans un état d'excitation (et d'épuisement), avec les Jeux Olympiques de 2010, ils ont accepté d'organiser notre rencontre et en ont fait une excellente conférence. Merci à Peter Liljedahl, Rina Zazkis, Nathalie Sinclair, Sen Campbell, Shiva Gol Tabaghi, Simin Jolfae, Christian Bernéche, Paulino Preciado, Darien Allen et Sean Chorney.

À notre rencontre annuelle, nous avons annoncé que Dave Wagner allait se retirer des fonctions d'éditeur du bulletin d'information et un appel a été lancé pour trouver un remplaçant. Ami Mamolo a accepté de prendre en charge le bulletin et Dave l'accompagnera dans le processus de transition.

D'autres nouvelles incluent une nouvelle forme des actes de notre conférence annuelle. À la suite d'un sondage de nos membres, nous pouvons rapporter que 94 % de ceux qui y ont répondu ont indiqué qu'ils préfèrent pouvoir choisir entre la version électronique des actes et une copie papier, au prix de 20 \$. À la suite de cette décision, la cotisation annuelle pour les membres sera réduite de 55 \$ à 35 \$.

Speaking of our conference, Mary Stordy and Margo Kondratieva are busy working on arrangements for our 2011 meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Save the date, June 10 – 14, 2011 and watch for our spring newsletter for details on the program. Given this fabulous site for our conference we encourage you to bring a colleague and introduce them to CMESG.

Each year, our annual general meeting provides us with an opportunity to think about the mandate of the group and how to enhance our organization. But reflections, critique and suggestions are welcome year round. If you have anything you would like to raise with the executive please send any one of us a note.

Until spring, take care and enjoy your winter break.

En parlant des conférences, Mary Stordy et Margo Kondratieva sont déjà occupés à organiser notre rencontre 2011 à St-Jean, Terre-Neuve. Mettez les dates (10 au 14 juin) à votre agenda et surveillez notre bulletin d'information du printemps pour des détails sur le programme. Comme la rencontre se déroule encore une fois dans un endroit magnifique cette année, nous vous encourageons à amener un collègue et à l'introduire au GCEDM.

Chaque année, notre assemblée générale annuelle nous donne l'opportunité de réfléchir au mandat du groupe et aux possibilités d'améliorer notre organisation. Mais des réflexions, des critiques et des suggestions sont les bienvenues tout au long de l'année. Si vous avez quelque questions que vous voulez soulever, n'hésitez pas à contacter un membre de l'exécutif.

En vous souhaitant un joyeux temps des fêtes.

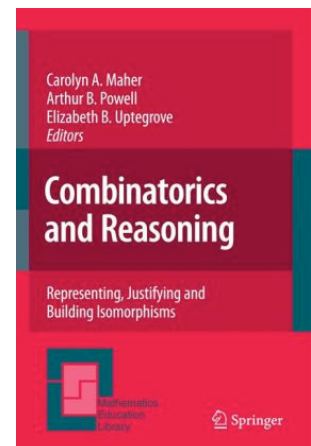
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## MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES / ACTIVITES DES MEMBRES

### BOOK RELEASE

Springer has published a new book edited by Arthur Powell and colleagues (Carolyn Maher and Elizabeth Uptegrove)...

*Combinatorics and Reasoning:  
Representing, Justifying and Building Isomorphisms.*



## WORKSHOPS AT CRM AND FIELDS ON TECHNOLOGY USE IN UNDERGRADUATE MATHEMATICS

Dan Jarvis  
Nipissing University

Chantal Buteau  
Brock University

Zsolt Lavicza  
University of Cambridge

Two workshops regarding technology use in undergraduate mathematics instruction took place in October 2010. The first workshop entitled, *Atelier sur l'intégration de la technologie dans l'enseignement post-secondaire aux étudiants en mathématiques*, occurred at the Centre de recherche mathématique (Montreal) on October 1st (in French); the second entitled, *Workshop on Technology Integration in Teaching Undergraduate Mathematics Students*, was hosted at the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences (Toronto) on October 29th (in English).

These workshops were mainly aimed at mathematicians working in departments of mathematics, including graduate students who teach undergraduate courses. Both programs included an informative keynote presentation by Bernard Hodgson (U Laval) entitled, *Enseignement et apprentissage des mathématiques au postsecondaire et technologie : regards personnels selon la perspective d'un mathématicien* (CRM); *Postsecondary mathematics education and technology: Some personal views from a mathematician's perspective* (Fields). Following the keynote was a research report delivered by workshop organizers Chantal Buteau (Brock U) and Dan Jarvis (Nipissing U) that highlighted the findings of a national online survey of mathematicians (Buteau, Jarvis, & Lavicza, Spring 2009) regarding Computer Algebra Systems (CAS) integration in Canadian mathematics instruction at the undergraduate level. The following three discussion sessions filled out the program:

- 1) *Intégration d'un cours sur un logiciel de manipulations symboliques (MS) : défis et impact sur le curriculum* (CRM); *Integrating an additional Junior course in programming and/or CAS use: Issues and impact on curriculum* (Fields). Discussion Leaders: Yvan St-Aubin (UoM), Janse Van Rensburg (York U), & Laurent Delisle (UoM)
- 2) *Repenser le curriculum des programmes de mathématiques de premier cycle : Quel y est le rôle de la technologie?* (CRM); *Rethinking the undergraduate mathematics curriculum: What role does technology play?* (Fields). Discussion Leaders: Walter Whiteley (York U), Franco Saliola (UQAM), & Jane Heffernan (York U)
- 3) *Évaluation dans les cours de mathématiques intégrant la technologie : Défis techniques et pédagogiques et considération curriculaires* (CRM); *Assessment in mathematics courses integrating technology: Technical/pedagogical challenges and curricular considerations* (Fields). Discussion Leaders: France Caron (UoM) & Hichem Ben-El-Mechaiekh (Brock U)

Approximately 50 individuals attended both events in total, and good discussions were enjoyed in the various planned sessions and during informal gatherings. For more details including videos of Dr. Hodgson's Keynote address (French/English), session abstracts, group photos, and research study results/publications, please visit our website:

<http://www.nipissingu.ca/casresearch/workshops.htm>

These workshops form part of an ongoing research study that has been made possible through the support of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). We would also like to thank the CRM and Fields for their generous support and assistance for these events.

## NOTICES / AVIS

We learned with sadness the deaths of Marty Hoffman (April 30) and John Coleman (September 30) this year, both of whom had long histories with CMESG. Tributes to them appear below.

### **MARTIN ROBERT HOFFMAN (1941 – 2010): CARING CHAMPION OF MATH FOR ALL**

submitted by: Arthur Powell, Rutgers University

In the small hours of May-Day eve, at age 69, Martin R. Hoffman took his last breath. He was a staunch defender of the idea that everyone can learn mathematics and worked his entire adult life helping a diversity of people become aware of their mathematical potential. He died from complications of diabetes.

On April 10, 1941, he was born into a middle-class family in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA, the oldest of three children. He was a highly intelligent, accomplished student in elementary and secondary school. After graduating from New Trier High School in 1959, he enrolled in the California Institute of Technology. In 1963, from that institution, he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics and, in 1967, a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois. At the same university, he then entered a doctoral mathematics program but, later, after spending time at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City, decided to dedicate himself to investigating the complex problems involved in the teaching and learning of school mathematics. He established roots in New York and eventually became a long-time resident of Brooklyn.

In 1970, Marty joined the staff of Caleb Gattegno's Educational Solutions, Inc. There he became acquainted with the influential psychological and pedagogical ideas of Caleb Gattegno (1911-1988), concerning the learning and teaching of mathematics with Cuisenaire rods, geoboards, and silent, animated geometry films. He worked with teachers in the New York City schools in Harlem, the Bronx, and Brooklyn. With Gattegno's materials, he helped them find joy in their engagement with mathematics and improve their mathematical understanding. He taught them to use Gattegno's pedagogical approach — the subordination of teaching to learning — to focus on their students' learning and thereby help their students develop mathematical ideas on their own. He pioneered the development of communities of teachers, collaborating outside of school to further their understanding of mathematics and of their students' mathematical behaviours. In 1976, based on his mathematical insights and understanding of Gattegno's ideas, he co-authored (with Guy Gattegno) a book for teachers — *Handbook of Activities for the Teaching of Mathematics at the Elementary School* — presenting effective, classroom-tested activities for teaching elementary school mathematics. Nowadays, his book remains a highly useful reference for teachers.

In 1977, he left Educational Solutions to teach mathematics at Queens College of the City University of New York. Until he retired in the second half of 2009, he was an exceptional mathematics instructor, caring mentor of students, and a stimulating colleague. For his first two decades at the college, he focused on developing and teaching a dynamic set of courses for students who entered the university “underprepared” for the rigors of college mathematics. His work influenced similar courses at Rutgers University in New Jersey and elsewhere. Marty's focus on mathematics for those most disempowered by their educational and other social experiences drew the attention and appreciation of the mathematician and mathematics education reformer, Edwin E. Moise, who, at the time, held a Distinguished Professorship at Queens College, and with whom Marty had several important collegial exchanges.

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Marty was critical of dominant ideas in mathematics education and of racial and social supremacists, particularly those that suggest only some individuals are capable of doing well in mathematics and that most people are without aptitude to learn much less to create mathematics. He lectured at conferences and conducted workshops with mathematics teachers in many countries, including the USA, Canada, Israel, Hungary, South Africa, and England on the use of Cuisenaire rods and Gattegno's ideas for teaching mathematics. He taught mathematics in a variety of settings and to diverse audiences, including skid-row adults, labour union workers, elementary and secondary teachers, young children, adolescents, college students, and teacher candidates. For nearly twenty years, he was a welcomed and esteemed participant of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group/Groupe Canadien d'Etude en Didactique des Mathématiques. Over the span of his career, he interacted with other influential educators who too were students or students of students of Gattegno such as John Trivett, David Wheeler, David Pimm, John Mason, Dick Tahta, Europe Singh, Sandy Dawson, Jim McDowell, Elenita McDowell, Rose Esparza, Chris Breen, Joyce Baynes, Marilyn Maye, and Paula Hajar.

On a personal note, Marty was for me a most significant mathematical and professional mentor and friend. I first met him in 1971, a few months after graduating high school. I learned much about mathematical problem solving and teaching from him. When he was not completing the New York Times crossword puzzle, we exchanged and solved mathematics problems, presented at conferences, published articles, conducted mathematics teaching workshops, taught classes to students who thought they hated mathematics, swapped photography tips, attended jazz and new wave musical concerts, as well as exchanged parenting stories and advice. With other mathematics educators, such as Marilyn Frankenstein, we demonstrated against poll taxes and organized progressive mathematicians and mathematics educators to march against war.

He is survived by his wife Annette Hoffman, daughter N'Kenge Pacurar and her husband Simeon, son Noneal Terry, brother Alan Hoffman and his wife Judy, and sister Joanne Bogart and her husband Richard, as well as innumerable students and friends around the world, all of whom loved him and will cherish memories of their experiences with a uniquely intelligent, gregarious, affable, curious, and caring human being.

### **ALBERT JOHN COLEMAN (1918 - 2010)**

submitted by: Peter Taylor, Queens University

John Coleman died September 30, 2010. He was a CMS president, a CMESG founder, and altogether a remarkable man.

His father was a worker on the Canadian Pacific Railway and with the help of a scholarship John gained admission in 1935 to the University of Toronto. In 1938, the team of John Coleman, Nathan Mendelsohn and Irving Kaplansky gave Toronto the top score in the inaugural Putnam exam. Following that he obtained an MSc at Princeton (1940) and a PhD at Toronto in Relativistic Quantum Mechanics under the supervision of J.L Synge and then Leopold Infeld. He spent 10 years as Assistant and Associate Professor at Toronto, and in 1960 began his 20-year tenure as Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Queen's University.

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**Mathematics:** From 1973 to 1975 he was the President of the Canadian Mathematical Society, and in 1995 he won its Distinguished Service Award. From 1973-77 he was a member of the Science Council of Canada and in 1975 he was the senior author of the Science Council Report (#37) on the Mathematical Sciences in Canada. Between 1974 and 1982, John was first Chairman and then Treasurer of the Commission on Exchange and Development of the International Mathematical Union (IMU).

When asked whether he was a mathematician or a physicist, John would reply that he was a quantum chemist. He published over 50 papers and gave lectures in Dublin, Princeton, Moscow, Leningrad, Jilin (China) Hong Kong, Shanghai, to name a few cities. He was made an Honorary Professor at the University of Shandong in Jinan, China. In the 1970s and 80s he was a leading player in the scientific exchange program between Canada and the USSR.

**Mathematics Education:** In the early 60s, John was senior editor of the Gage series of school mathematics textbooks which effectively brought the “New Maths” to Canada. One of the recommendations of his Science Council Report led to the establishment in 1977 (made “official” at the next meeting in 1978) of the Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group, the founding members being John, David Wheeler and William Higginson. CMESG is the envy of many from other countries who attend its annual meetings as it brings together university mathematicians and math educators, graduate students and teachers for 3-4 days of vigorous workshops and talks.

As a teacher, much revered by his students, he rambled over rich and beautiful and often chaotic worlds and then focused sharply on his point, leaving us to reconstruct the technical development. In this regard he was a true disciple of his mentor Alfred North Whitehead, whose *Aims of Education* was one of his bibles. [This extraordinary collection of essays, written in the 1920’s, is more relevant today than it has ever been.]

**Theology (the other bible):** In his undergraduate days, John was secretary of the Student Christian Movement at Toronto. From 1945-49 he was University Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation in Geneva, visiting 100 universities in 20 countries and writing a book on *The Task of the Christian in the University*. At that time he met his wife, Marie Jeanne de Haller, a Swiss Theologian, and a remarkably kind, gentle and wise woman, who died in 2006. In 1978 he was the only Canadian layman to participate in the Lambeth conference in Canterbury. [The big issue that year was the admission of women to the clergy.]

Starting in 1960, and for many years thereafter he ran a seminar at Queen’s for 12 students in their second year. The summer before, we had the task of reading a number of books: Dostoyevsky, *Crime and Punishment*; J B Phillips, *Letters to Young Churches*; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Letters and Papers from Prison*, and others. During the year we met every second week at his home to take turns presenting papers on the books. It was an extraordinary and formative experience for all who were fortunate enough to take part.

**The Man:** John was a remarkable man. His idiosyncratic style, a child-like directness, distanced him from some but won the passionate allegiance of so many others. As a Head, he had a firm and open leadership style. As a colleague and a friend, he was generous with his time, a superb listener, and always interested in the tales that his companion had to tell. He was a devout man, with a strong faith in a just God. He even had a fine run as a politician, almost taking the Kingston federal seat from Flora MacDonald. In these uncertain, morally ambiguous times, I am struck by how much the world now needs people of his wisdom, clarity, and integrity. In the early morning of September 30th 2010, John died quietly in hospital in Kingston at the age of 92. The week before he had been keen to have a young undergraduate I had told him about come to his bedside so he could talk to him about Whitehead’s theory of relativity.

## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE / DES NOUVELLES DE L'EXECUTIF

### ÉLECTIONS 2011 : APPEL DE CANDIDATURES

Les mandats de deux ans de Doug Franks (Trésorier) et de Peter Liljedahl (Membre) au sein de l'Exécutif viennent à échéance le 14 juin 2011. Vous êtes invités à soumettre des candidatures pour ces deux postes à Florence Glanfield, [florence.glanfield@ualberta.ca](mailto:florence.glanfield@ualberta.ca), présidente du Comité de nominations, d'ici au 1 janvier 2011, ou à Julie Long, [jslong@ualberta.ca](mailto:jslong@ualberta.ca), membre du Comité de nomination.

Pour chaque personne que vous désirez mettre en nomination, vous devez indiquer s'il s'agit d'une mise en nomination pour le poste de trésorier ou en tant que membre de l'exécutif. Il n'est pas nécessaire de vérifier si une personne dont vous proposez la nomination accepte de se présenter.

### APPEL POUR L'IDENTIFICATION DES PRÉSENTATEURS/PRÉSENTATRICES D'UNE THÈSE DOCTORALE

Chaque année, à la réunion du GCEDM, les individus qui ont récemment complété leur thèse doctorale en didactique des mathématiques ont l'occasion de présenter leur travail et d'en partager les résultats avec des collègues à travers le Canada et autour du monde qui assistent à la réunion.

Pour avoir le droit de présenter à la réunion, les individus doivent avoir soutenu leur thèse avant le 31 décembre 2010. Tout présentateur/présentatrice doit avoir complété son doctorat à une université canadienne, ou doit être un(e) canadien(ne) qui a complété son doctorat à une université étrangère.

Si vous remplissez ces conditions, ou si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui remplit ces conditions, veuillez m'envoyer l'information ci-dessous par courriel aussitôt que possible ([Laurent.Theis@USherbrooke.ca](mailto:Laurent.Theis@USherbrooke.ca)). Ensuite, j'écrirai à cet individu pour m'assurer qu'il/elle veuille assister et présenter à la réunion à St. John's, du 10 au 14 juin.

Renseignements nécessaires:

Nom :  
Adresses de courrier électronique :  
Adresse postale :  
Nom de l'université où le doctorat a été complété :  
Superviseur principal :  
Titre de la dissertation :

Merci pour votre aide à ajouter des noms à la communauté des éducateurs de mathématiques au Canada.

### ELECTIONS 2011: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The two-year terms of Doug Franks (Treasurer) and Peter Liljedahl (Member) on the Executive Committee will be ending June 14, 2011. You are invited to submit names of candidates for the two positions to Florence Glanfield, chair of the Nomination Committee ([florence.glanfield@ualberta.ca](mailto:florence.glanfield@ualberta.ca)), or Julie Long, member of the Nomination Committee ([jslong@ualberta.ca](mailto:jslong@ualberta.ca)), no later than January 1, 2011.

For each nomination, please indicate whether it is for the position of treasurer or as a member of the Executive. It is not necessary to verify if the individuals you wish to nominate are willing to run for the office.

### CALL FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF PROSPECTIVE PH.D. PRESENTERS

Each year at the CMESG meeting, individuals who have recently completed their Ph.D. degrees in mathematics education are showcased. They are given an opportunity to present their work and share their results with colleagues from across Canada and around the world who are in attendance at the meeting.

To be eligible to present at the meeting, individuals must have successfully defended their dissertations no later than December 31, 2010. Presenters must have completed their Ph.D. programs at a Canadian institution, or be a Canadian who has completed her/his doctorate at a foreign institution.

If you are such a person, or if you know of such a person, please forward the following information to me by email ([Laurent.Theis@USherbrooke.ca](mailto:Laurent.Theis@USherbrooke.ca)) as soon as possible. I will then contact that individual to ascertain his/her willingness to attend and present at the St. John's meeting, June 10-14.

Information needed:

Name:  
Email address:  
Snail mail address:  
Name of Institution where degree completed:  
Senior supervisor:  
Title of the Dissertation:

Thank you for your assistance in identifying this year's addition to the community of mathematics educators in Canada.



## CMESG Editors / Les Éditeurs du GCEDM

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## CMESG EXECUTIVE / L'EXÉCUTIF DU GCEDM 2010-2011

The members of the executive extend an invitation to you to contact us about any item of interest. If you have something you want to suggest, if you have a concern you wish to raise, if you want more information, etc., please let one of us know. In order to be of service to the membership, we need to be aware of what your interests are.

Les membres du Comité exécutif vous invitent à leur faire part de votre point de vue concernant n'importe quel aspect de la vie du GCEDM. Que ce soit pour transmettre suggestions ou commentaires, ou encore pour être mieux informé, n'hésitez pas à entrer en contact avec l'un d'entre nous. En nous faisant connaître vos intérêts, vous nous aidez à mieux vous servir.

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