

NEWSLETTER / BULLETIN

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

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

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:

Le GCEDM est composé de personnes œuvrant 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) 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.

- 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

Olive Chapman

I am honoured to be given the opportunity to serve as president of this important Canadian organization of mathematics education. I had served as treasurer and membership secretary for six years, so I am not a stranger to the executive.

Special thanks to our outgoing president Elaine Simmt (University of Alberta) for her leadership over two terms and the outgoing members of the executive David Lidstone (Langara College), and Lucie De Blois (Université Laval) for their invaluable service to the Group. Thanks to the incoming members of the executive Caroline Lajoie (Université du Québec à Montréal) and Donna Kotsopoulos (Wilfrid Laurier University), and the continuing members Viktor Freiman (Université de Moncton), Peter Liljedahl (Simon Fraser University) and Miroslav Lovric (McMaster University) for their dedication to the Group. Thanks to Florence Glanfield, Lynn McGarvey and their local organizing team at the University of Alberta for hosting another fantastic conference. It was great having Tom Kieren join us for the Elder Talk.

I must mention the loss of our dear colleague Doug Franks who made significant contributions to the Group in his role as treasurer for six years. When I heard of his illness in early June I emailed him and his reply ended with: "Hope the CMESG meeting went well; sorry to have missed it-- and all CMESG colleagues." We will miss you Doug!

We are back east for our 2015 conference at the Université de Moncton, New Brunswick, June 5 to 9. Viktor Freiman and Manon LeBlanc are looking forward to hosting us. The executive is working diligently on the program for this meeting. We are grateful for all the interesting suggestions from members regarding working group topics in particular. We have confirmed two interesting plenary speakers: Dr. Eric Roditi (Université Paris Descartes, France) is the mathematics education keynote and Dr. Deborah Hughes-Hallett (University of Arizona, USA) is the mathematician keynote. We have several new PhD sessions. We

Je suis honorée d'avoir l'occasion de servir en tant que présidente pour une organisation Canadienne aussi importante pour l'éducation des mathématiques. J'avais servi comme trésorière et secrétaire des membres pendant six ans, alors je connais bien le conseil.

Merci bien à la présidente sortante Elaine Simmt (l'Université d'Alberta) pour votre direction pendant deux termes, ainsi qu'aux membres sortants du conseil David Lidstone (College Langara) et Lucie De Blois (Université Laval) pour vos services inestimables. Merci aux nouveaux membres du conseil Caroline Lajoie (Université du Québec à Montréal) et Donna Kotsopoulos (Université Wilfrid Laurier), et aux membres reviennent Viktor Freiman (Université de Moncton), Peter Liljedahl (Université Simon Fraser), et Miroslav Lovric (Université McMaster) pour votre dévouement continu au Groupe. Merci aussi à Florence Glanfield, Lynn McGarvey et leurs équipes d'organisation à l'Université de l'Alberta d'avoir organisé une conférence aussi fantastique. C'était formidable que Tom Kieren nous ait rejoints pour la parole aux anciens.

Je dois faire mention de la perte d'un cher collègue Doug Franks, qui a apporté une contribution significative au Groupe au cours de ses six années comme trésorier. Lorsque j'ai appris en début juin dernier de sa maladie, je lui ai envoyé un courriel, auquel il a répondu « J'espère que la réunion GCEDM s'est bien déroulée. Désolé de ne pas avoir pu y assister... et tous les collègues de GCEDM ». Doug, vous nous manquez!

Nous nous serons de retour dans l'Est à l'Université de Moncton au Nouveau Brunswick pour la conférence de 2015, du 5 au 9 juin. Viktor Freiman et Manon LeBlanc ont hâte d'accueillir le groupe. Le conseil travail avec diligence pour établir un programme pour la prochaine rencontre. Nous vous sommes reconnaissant pour vos suggestions intéressantes, en particulier, les suggestions concernant les thèmes pour le travail de groupe. Nous avons confirmé deux

will provide you with a preview of the program early next year.

The executive has started planning to celebrate the 40th meeting of the group in 2016 at Queen's University, the birthplace of the CMESG. We welcome suggestions for consideration by the executive to mark this special anniversary. You are also invited to share any comments and concerns via any member of the executive for us to address.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

conférenciers intéressants : Dr. Eric Roditi (l'Université Paris Descartes, France) orateur principal en éducation des mathématiques, et Dr. Deborah Hughes-Hallett (l'Université d'Arizona, ÉU), mathématicienne principale. Nous avons aussi beaucoup de nouvelles thèses de doctorat. Vous recevrez un aperçu du programme au début de l'année prochaine.

Le conseil a commencé les plans pour la célébration de la 40^e réunion en 2016 à l'Université Queen's, d'où le GCEDM a été conçu. Nous serons heureux de recevoir vos suggestions pour cet événement spécial. Également, nous vous invitons à partager vos commentaires et préoccupations avec le conseil.

Je vous souhaite des joyeuses fêtes!

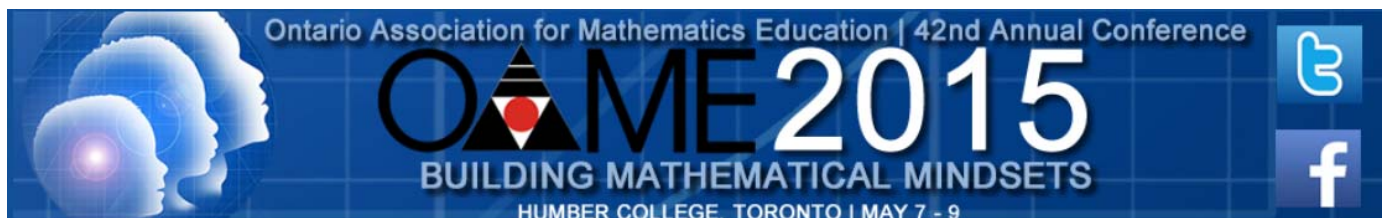
NOTICES / AVIS

Up-coming Conferences and Events



The Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS) and McMaster University invite the mathematical community to the 2014 CMS Winter Meeting at the Sheraton Hamilton from December 5-8. Of note for the CMESG community are two education-based sessions: *Teaching Introduction to Proofs Courses*, and *Undergraduate Mathematics Education in 21st Century: Rethinking Curriculum*. As well, CMESG executive member Miroslav Lovric (McMaster University) will give a plenary address on *What Everyone is Talking About: Math for the 21st Century*. Special congratulations to CMESG past-president Frédéric Gourdeau (Université Laval) who will be receiving the Adrien Pouliot Award for significant and sustained contributions to math education in Canada. His prize lecture is titled *Mathematics, education and society: A fascinating journey*. Félicitations Frédéric!

For more program details, visit: <http://cms.math.ca/Events/winter14/>



Math + Coding

SYMPOSIUM: 19-21 June 2015
Faculty of Education, Western University
Learning, making & performing
math relationships with code

Funded by the Fields Institute, with support from Western and Wilfrid Laurier universities

Keynote Speakers: Celia Hoyles, Yasmin Kafai, Richard Noss

The Symposium will explore the recent and quickly evolving focus on coding for young students, and its connection to mathematics. We are specifically interested in exploring four areas of the mathematics-coding relationship:

1. Coding as a way of modelling mathematics relationships
2. Mathematics learning as a route to computational thinking
3. Coding and digital making as tools for students *performing* and *transporting* mathematics ideas beyond classrooms
4. The design of low floor, high ceiling, wide walls *mathematics + coding* learning experiences

We can offer some support (up to \$500) for up to 6 graduate students and postdocs.

For more information:

- visit the Symposium website at www.researchideas.ca/coding
- contact George Gadanidis at ggadanid@uwo.ca

The Taming of Chance- Story Competition

The Taming of Chance Story Competition (brought to us by The Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences in partnership with the American Statistical Association) seeks to answer a critical question at the center of how statistics is (or is not) relevant to our everyday lives. Answering the question "What our world be like if the normal curve had never been discovered?" statistics educators and students are invited to tell a story

What would our world be like
if the normal curve
had never been discovered?

which makes the subject resonate with a general audience who increasingly have a need to be quantitatively literate.

The competition judges will be awarding the \$2000 grand prize in June of 2015, and to further encourage participation by younger students, an additional \$1500 prize is reserved for entries from students under the age of 26.

For more information, please see the competition website:

tamingofchance.vretta.com

Could you imagine your life without a cellphone, or without the Internet? Could you imagine a world without vaccines, or a world where the medicine is as dangerous as the disease?

In the late 19th century, a new way of thinking about chance revolutionized the way science would be done forever after. The Taming of Chance is one of the most important stories of scientific revolution that touches our lives everyday. This competition seeks talented storytellers to share this story with the world.

See website for submission details:
tamingofchance.vretta.com

Remembering Douglas Roy Franks (1946 – 2014)

Dr. Douglas Franks, recently retired Associate Professor in the Schulich School of Education, passed away from brain cancer on October 19th, 2014. He is remembered fondly by his wife Sandra, children Aaron and Jennifer, and their respective families. A *Celebration of Life* event was hosted at Nipissing University on Wednesday, October 29th, which was very well attended by current and past colleagues and friends. The special evening included a touching eulogy by former colleague, Dr. John Lundy; several classical pieces played by members of the North Bay Symphony Orchestra (on whose Board of Directors Doug had served); favourite poetry/songs; a digital photo tribute; and reflections shared by colleagues/friends/family (including comments sent from past CMESG presidents Dr. Elaine Simmt and Dr. Florence Glandfield).



Many of you may know Doug from past Canadian Math Education Study Group (CMESG) conferences/working groups, through CMESG Executive service (Treasurer), and/or through a variety of university/research connections. Doug was an influential mentor for me at a number of life stages (B.Ed. instructor; practicum Faculty Advisor; M.Ed. Thesis Supervisor; co-researcher). From my perspective, Doug encompassed, in his professional pursuits and friendships with colleagues and students, an example of someone who was at once highly informed and intelligent, yet also refreshingly genuine and compassionate. He was the kind of “human academic” one would wish to emulate—striking a healthy balance between family loyalty and university life commitments. For the past number of years, Doug took to signing his emails with the following brief yet powerful quotation attributed to the great Renaissance master painter/sculptor, Michelangelo Buonarroti, at the tender age of 86: “*Ancora Imparo*” (“I am still learning”). Undoubtedly a fitting epitaph for Doug’s life as well—one filled with curiosity and commitment to the crafts of mathematics education teaching and research.

Daniel Jarvis (Schulich School of Education, Nipissing University)

Dr. Doug Franks, a friend and colleague, for close to 30 years. We first met while graduate students, he in a PhD program, I in a Master's program. I remember one of the classes that we had together in mathematics education where we worked on a project for the Apple II (or was it the IIe?) computer around visualizing mean, median, and mode. We then worked together for Alberta Education, writing and creating Teacher Resource Manuals, for high school mathematics. When Doug finished his PhD we stayed in touch through the Canadian Mathematics Education community; sometimes at mathematics education conferences and meetings in Ontario; sometimes at the CMESG meetings. I will always be grateful to Doug for his wise counsel; teaching me to think deeply about ideas; and his propensity for clarity around everything: from talking about teaching mathematics, learning mathematics, learning to teach mathematics, and especially finances when he served as CMESG treasurer. Doug contributed in so many ways to the life of mathematics education in Canada; as he mentored, nudged, and laughed with, so many..... a gentleman, friend, and colleague.

Florence Glanfield (Faculty of Education, University of Saskatchewan)

It is often the case that our work lives are quite separate from our family lives. I knew little of Doug's life outside of a narrow slice of his professional life called CMESG but I can share with his family and friends that he was one of my CMESG friends that I deeply respected. Doug and I were frequently in the same working group, sharing interests as we did, and we worked together on the CMESG executive. He was an outstanding steward of our organization as treasurer for 6 years.

Earlier this year he wrote to Florence Glanfield and me to say he would not be attending CMESG in Edmonton and wished us a good meeting. He had a small apology on the bottom of his message, "hey--just a word.. you've been reading left handed lower case h&p--- apologies [exclamation ;0]"

I wrote back, commenting that there must be a back story. In his return message we learned of his diagnosis. He replied: "hi again.. retirement began with a big sigh... 'yesss!!!!' although the journey has taken a bit of a twist-- a few turns along the way, a few hills and valleys--right now having an internal 'conversation' with a brain tumour and exploring the math and physics of radiation treatment. quite interesting actually! does add to life's story. getting treatment in sudbury.. all the best to everyone at the gathering...."

Needless to say the news was so very sad for me and for all of us at CMESG. We passed a card around for Doug at our annual meeting. By the time it got back to me, there wasn't a space to fill. I know that Doug got the card. He sent a note across the listserve: "got home today [friday] from what lately has become my second home --sudbury cancer centre-- to find in the mail a card signed by many friends who were attending the annual meeting in edmonton. have to say got kind of a lump in the ol' throat, you know, thinking about missing all the good times, interesting working group conversations, and casting back over several years of memories. thank you again for all the well wishes---they meant/mean a lot. with a little luck and positive thinking, hope to see you next year in moncton!"

We won't see Doug in Moncton but we will raise a pint in his memory as a wonderful colleague and friend.

Elaine Simmt (Faculty of Education, University of Alberta)

Doug Franks was a gift to mathematics educators in Canada, and even beyond. I believe that I benefitted from his initiative and leadership more than others, as I took over from him the CMESG Newsletter editorship. He developed and sustained a clear and dependable medium for communication among CMESG members, publishing in both French and English. Once I took over, he gave me good advice when asked and encouraged my new ideas. His optimism especially impressed me. It was sometimes a challenge to be optimistic as a newsletter editor because busy scholars (myself included) do not have the best reputation for contributing written pieces on time. His optimism was also evident in the time I served together with him on the CMESG board. He believed in the generosity of our membership. For example, Doug expended a lot of time and energy to make it possible for CMESG members to contribute to a fund to support graduate student participation. Doug was a willing volunteer in so many ways – taking on leadership roles and consenting to special requests. Indeed, shortly before his untimely passing he agreed to audit the FLM financial statements. Unfortunately, he was not able to perform this last offer of service because of his sickness. Nevertheless, he agreed to do this task in retirement even when he did not have his usual energy. I will miss his presence in our community, but I know that his legacy lives on in the ethos of our CMESG executive, of the FLM board, and of the CMESG community as a whole. He was a model citizen.

Dave Wagner (Faculty of Education, University of New Brunswick)

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE / DES NOUVELLES DE L'EXÉCUTIF

CMESG elections 2015: Call for nominations

The two-year terms of Viktor Freiman (Treasurer) and Peter Liljedahl (Member) on the Executive Committee will be ending May 30, 2015. You are invited to submit names of candidates for the two positions to Elaine Simmt (esimmt@ualberta.ca), chair of the Nomination Committee, or Peter Liljedahl (liljedahl@sfu.ca), member of the Nomination Committee, no later than January 30, 2015.

For each nomination, please indicate whether it is for the position of president or as a member of the Executive. It is not necessary at this time 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. degree 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. To be eligible to present at the meeting, individuals must have successfully defended their dissertations no later than December 31, 2014. Presenters must have completed their Ph.D. program at a Canadian institution, or be a Canadian who has completed her/his doctorate at a foreign institution. If you know of such a person (whether you are her/his supervisor or not), please forward their name and contact information to me by email (lovric@mcmaster.ca) as soon as possible. I will then contact that individual to ascertain his/her willingness to attend and present at the CMESG meeting at University of Moncton, Moncton, New Brunswick, 5-9 June 2015. If you are yourself a person who is eligible for a new Ph.D. presentation, please contact me directly to inform me that you wish to present at the 2015 meeting, and supply the information below.

Élection 2015 GCEDM: Appel de candidatures

Les mandats de deux ans de Viktor Freiman (Trésorier) et de Peter Liljedahl (Membre) au sein de l'Exécutif viennent à échéance le 30 mai 2015. Vous êtes invités à soumettre des candidatures pour ces deux postes à Elaine Simmt (esimmt@ualberta.ca), président du Comité de nominations, ou à Peter Liljedahl (liljedahl@sfu.ca), membre du Comité de nomination, d'ici au 30 janvier 2015.

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 président ou en tant que membre de l'exécutif. Il n'est pas nécessaire à ce moment-ci de vérifier si une personne dont vous proposez la nomination accepte de se présenter.

Appel de présentateurs / présentatrices d'une thèse doctorale

Chaque année, à la réunion du GCEDM, les personnes 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. Pour avoir le droit de présenter leur thèse à la réunion du groupe canadien, les personnes doivent avoir soutenu leur thèse avant le 31 décembre 2014. Tout présentateur/ présentatrice doit avoir complété son doctorat dans une université canadienne, ou doit être un(e) canadien(ne) qui a complété son doctorat dans une université étrangère. Si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui remplit ces conditions (que vous soyez le directeur/directrice de thèse de cette personne ou non), veuillez m'envoyer l'information ci-dessous par courriel (lovric@mcmaster.ca) aussitôt que possible. Ensuite, j'écrirai à cette personne pour m'assurer qu'il/elle veuille assister et faire une présentation à la réunion du groupe canadien à l'Université de Moncton, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick du 5 au 9 juin 2015. Si vous remplissez vous-mêmes les critères pour présenter votre thèse à la rencontre de GCEDM, vous pouvez également me contacter

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 additions to the community of mathematics educators in Canada.

Miroslav Lovric (on behalf of the CMESG executive)

directement pour me faire part de votre intérêt.

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

Je vous remercie d'avance de nous aider à ajouter des noms à la communauté des didacticiens et des didacticiennes des mathématiques au Canada.

Miroslav Lovric (pour l'exécutif du GCEDM)

CMESG EXECUTIVE / L'EXÉCUTIF DU GCEDM

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.

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Peter Liljedahl, Vice President / Vice-Président
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Viktor Freiman, Treasurer and Membership Secretary / Trésorier et Secrétaire aux membres
Faculty of Education
Université de Moncton
email: viktor.freiman@umoncton.ca

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.

Caroline Lajoie, Secretary / Secrétaire
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Miroslav Lovric, Member-at-large / Membre adjoint
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