



# Mathematics Education Center News

College of Education and Human Development

## Math Specialist Leader Program: New Course Offering

The Math Specialist Leader Program recently added a new course to its program of study. The course, EDCI 644: Mathematics Learning and Assessment for K-8 Teachers, was recently approved by the GSE Curriculum Committee.

This course introduces students to learning theories and associated assessment practices specific to mathematics education. It is specifically tended for mathematics specialists and teachers interested in problems of learning and assessment across K-8 mathematics education settings.

The first offering is during Summer 2009—Session A. The instructor is Dr. Jennifer Suh, Assistant Professor of Mathematics Education.

This course will be offered again in the future, depending upon enrollment and program of study needs. Students enrolled in the Math Specialist Leader Program are encouraged to speak with their advisor, Dr. Margret Hjalmarson, if they are interested in applying this course to their program of study.

For more information about the course content and structure, please feel free to contact Dr. Jennifer Suh at [jsuh4@gmu.edu](mailto:jsuh4@gmu.edu).

## ANNOUNCING SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR GRADES 3-8 TEACHERS!!!!

*I.M.P.A.C.T: Improving Mathematical Practices through Algebraic Connections & Technology*

In August, teachers from the following districts will be engaged in week-long Summer Institutes, with follow-up online collaboration & on-site lesson study cycles:

Norfolk City Public Schools

Petersburg City Public Schools

Hopewell City Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools

Prince William County Public Schools

Contact Jennifer Suh,  
[jsuh4@gmu.edu](mailto:jsuh4@gmu.edu), for more info.

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### Special points of interest:

- *Math Specialist Leader Program: New Course Offering (page 1)*
- *ExxonMobil Math Specialist Award (page 2)*

## Recent Mathematics Education Publications and Presentations

During the 2008-2009 academic year, Mathematics Education Leadership Faculty and Students were engaged in presentations at national conferences and published in peer-reviewed journals.

### Articles

Kridler, P. G., & Moyer-Packenham, P. S. (2008). Mathematics circles: A structured approach to problem solving. *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, 14(4), 214-221.

Suh, J. M., Johnston, C. J., & Douds, J. (2008). Enhancing mathematical learning in a technology-rich environment. *Teaching Children Mathematics*, 15(4), 235-241.

Suh, J. M., Johnston, C., Jamieson, S., & Mills, T. (2008). Promoting decimal number sense and representational fluency. *Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School*, 14(1), 44-50.

### Monograph

Hjalmarson, M. A., & Suh, J. M. (2008). Developing mathematical pedagogical knowledge by evaluating instructional materials. *AMTE Monograph (Volume 5)*, pp. 97-108. Edited by Fran Arbaugh & P. Mark Taylor.

### National Presentations

#### *Magret Hjalmarson:*

Design research methods in STEM education. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. (April, 2009).

#### *Jennifer Suh:*

Developing collective teacher efficacy in a professional development school. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA. (April, 2009).

Let's talk math: Engaging all learners in meaningful mathematics discourse. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. (April, 2009).

#### *Christopher Johnston:*

Comparing pre-service & beginning (in-service) elementary teachers' use of virtual manipulatives & applets in math instruction. Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators Annual Conference, Orlando, FL. (Feb., 2009).

Pre-service elementary teachers planning for math instruction: Use of technology tools. Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education Annual Conference, Charleston, SC. (March, 2009).

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## Master's Degree Student Earns Fellowship Award



Erin Dean, and her son, Jonathan

The recipient of the 2008-2009 Master's Degree Fellowship Award for Mathematics Education is Erin Dean. Erin is currently in a Mathematics Specialist for Prince William County Schools. She works at Mary Williams Elementary School in Dumfries.

Erin received this award in the fall, and she graduated this spring.

Congratulations, Erin!

The fellowship winner received \$500.00 from the College of Education and Human Development to complete her studies in the Master's Degree program as a Math Specialist leader.

## Master's & Ph.D. Mathematics Education Program Graduates

Graduation is a time to celebrate our students' accomplishments. In May 2009, 3 students graduated with Master's Degrees as Math Specialist Leaders: Erin Dean, Julie Healy, and Lauren Roederer.

These 3 Master's Degree students will continue their positions of leadership within their respective schools in Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

In addition, 2 Ph.D. Mathematics Education Leadership students graduated from the 2004 cohort. These students are: Catherine Scott and Christopher Johnston.

Catherine Scott's dissertation was titled: "A Comparative Case Study of the Characteristics of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics or (STEM) Focused High Schools. Her chair was Dr. Margret Hjalmarson.

Catherine Scott currently serves as the director of the NASA eClips program at the National Institute of Aerospace in Hampton, VA. She plans to continue her research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and working with pre- and in-service mathematics teachers.

Christopher Johnston's dissertation was titled: "Pre-service teachers planning for mathematics instruction: The role and evaluation of technology tools and their influence on lesson design." His chair was Dr. Jennifer Suh.

Christopher Johnston is currently the Program Office Manager and Recruiter for Mathematics Education Leadership at GMU. During the fall, he will be teaching several elementary math methods courses and continuing his work in the Mathematics Education Leadership program.



Dr. Christopher Johnston & Dr. Jennifer Suh

## ExxonMobil Math Specialist Award: Kimberly Morrow-Leong



Dr. Margret Hjalmarson and Kimberly Leong

For many years ExxonMobil has been a strong supporter of Virginia's Math Specialist initiatives by providing funds for mathematics specialists throughout the state of Virginia. This year marks the third consecutive year that an award has been given directly to a George Mason University Math Specialist Student.

The student selected for the ExxonMobil Math Specialist Excellence Award demonstrated a strong commitment in her pursuit of the Math Specialist Master's degree and has an excellent academic record in coursework and program activities.

This year's recipient of the ExxonMobil math specialist Award was Kimberly Leong, of Prince William County Schools. She received \$1,000 from ExxonMobil for the award.

Congratulations

**Love Math?**

**MATH SPECIALIST LEADER**  
<http://gse.gmu.edu/programs/math/>

The Math Specialist Leader concentration is a 33 credit M.Ed. Degree in Education Leadership. This concentration is a unique program for persons who want to study to become K-8 Mathematics Specialists in schools. Coursework in the program focuses on mathematics education leadership with specific coursework in mathematics content for the K-8 school setting.

**MATH SPECIALIST LEADER (K-8) CONCENTRATION (33 Credits)**

EDCI 666	Research in Mathematics Teaching (3 credits)
EDCI 645	Curriculum Development in Mathematics Education (3 credits)
EDCI 646	Mathematics Education Leadership for School Change (3 credits)
EDLE 618	Supervision and Evaluation of Instruction (3 credits)
EDLE 791	Internship in Education Leadership (3 credits)
EDLE 616	Curriculum Development and Evaluation (3 credits)
MATH 600	Special Topics: Number Systems & Number Theory for K-8 Teachers (3 credits)
MATH 600	Special Topics: Geometry and Measurement for K-8 Teachers (3 credits)



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*We're on the web!*

<http://gse.gmu.edu/cscvm/main>



The Mathematics Education Center (MEC) is located in the Graduate School of Education in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. The MEC conducts mathematics education research, provides professional development, and designs instructional materials. The MEC works in collaboration with the Mathematics Education Leadership programs at George Mason University to support the scholarly research and professional development of PhD and Master's level graduate students enrolled in the programs.



**MEC Faculty and Staff**