



THE MATHEMATICS EDUCATION CENTER

at George Mason University

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

Focusing on the Study of Concrete & Virtual Manipulatives George Mason University

CENTER NEWS

FALL 2003

MEC Center Director Hosts Visiting Scholar

Dr. Hae-Ja Heo, Professor of Mathematics Education at Kwandong University, South Korea, is currently visiting GMU, hosted by MEC Center Director, Patricia Moyer-Packenham. During her one-year visit, Drs. Heo and Moyer-Packenham and MEL Doctoral Student, Jennifer Suh, are collaborating on a research project that examines the impact of virtual fraction manipulatives on students' fraction knowledge in grade 5.

MEL Faculty and Students Present at NCTM 2003

A number of outstanding sessions were presented at the annual NCTM Conference in San Antonio, April 9-12, 2003. Several of our own Mathematics Education Leadership faculty and students presented the following sessions:

Patricia Moyer-Packenham & Johnna Bolyard -
Exploring Representation Using Virtual
Manipulatives in Geometry

John Staley & Johnna Bolyard Manipulatives
and Technology: A Concrete View of Algebraic
Representations

Vickie Inge - Patterns: The Bridge from
Arithmetic to Algebra

Jennifer Suh - Become a Junior Architect:
Clubhouse Math Project

Lynnea Salvo - Odd and Even Numbers:
Developing the Concept Deeply

Allison Roberts & Tamie Lankey - Flexible
Grouping Where to Begin: Making Math
Meaningful at Every Level

Mathematics Education Leadership Program Currently Recruiting New Cohort

The next cohort of Ph.D. and M.Ed. students in Mathematics Education Leadership is scheduled to begin fall of 2004. Students who are interested in pursuing a masters or doctoral degree in K-8 mathematics education leadership should obtain application materials from the Graduate School of Education at George Mason University. For more information about these programs, visit the GSE website or contact MEL program coordinator, Mark Spikell, for more information: mspikell@gmu.edu or (703) 993-2042.

MEL Doctoral Student Receives Presidential Award for Mathematics Teaching

John W. Staley, a doctoral student in the Mathematics Education Leadership cohort, received the 2002 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for the state of Maryland. He attended the awards recognition in Washington, D.C. in March 2003.

**MEC Receives Funding from Improving Teacher
Quality State Grants Program
(\$95,203)**

MEC Center Director, Patricia Moyer-Packenham, and co-PI, Johnna Bolyard (Loudoun County Public Schools Mathematics Specialist) recently received a grant award of \$95,203 from the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program. These funds were allocated as part of the No Child Left Behind Legislation of 2001. The project directs resources to K-8 teachers in Loudoun County for the improvement of mathematics instruction and the use of technology. The project is called Math Bridges II and runs through the 2003-2004 academic year.

**Math Bridges II - Summer Institutes
For Teachers**

During the summer of 2003 and academic year 2003-2004, teachers in grades K-8 in the Loudoun County Public Schools are participating in the Math Bridges II institutes. These institutes are held in grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6, and 7-8 for teachers who work in LCPS. Mathematics educators and GMU Mathematicians work collaboratively as instructors for the institutes. This year's mathematics education instructors included MEL PhD students – Johnna Bolyard, Denise Frye, Lorraine Smith, and Jennifer Suh. Mathematician instructors included Robert Sachs, Kathleen Alligood, Tom Nuttall, and Klaus Fischer. Contact Johnna Bolyard (LCPS) for more information: (703) 779-8886 or jjbolyard@yahoo.com.

**Center Funding Provides Resources for
MEL Students**

An important goal of the Center is to support students enrolled in the Mathematics Education Leadership program through their participation in the Center's externally funded research and teacher professional development activities. In 2002 and 2003, external funding supported MEL students in a variety of activities including: instruction for summer teacher workshops, web page development, and research activities. These resources enable students to engage in professional activities that support their development in mathematics education leadership.