$14.7 Million NSF Funding to MEC and Partners for the Math Science Partnership Program Evaluation

Patricia Moyer-Packenham, Director of the Mathematics Education Center, along with colleagues Dr. Robert K. Yin (Lead-PI, Cosmos Corp.), Dr. Kenneth Wong (Co-PI, Vanderbilt), and Dr. Jennifer Scherer (Co-PI, Cosmos) received a $14.7 million dollar 5-year contract award to conduct the Mathematics and Science Partnership Program Evaluation (MSP-PE). The goal of the MSP-PE is to evaluate the MSP program in its entirety. Colleagues in the project are currently designing a variety of substudies for program assessment. The evaluation will assess the MSP program’s impact as well as its contribution in advancing knowledge about mathematics and science education. GMU faculty participating in the project include Patricia Moyer-Packenham, Margret Hjalmarsdottir, Johnna Bolyard, Eamonn Kelly, Dimiter Dimitrov, Kathleen Alligood, Klaus Fischer, Tom Nuttall, Bob Sachs, Maria Dworzecka, and Harold Geller.

New Math Specialist K-8 Masters Degree Concentration

The Mathematics Education Leadership programs in the College of Education and Human Development are pleased to announce a new Math Specialist K-8 Masters Degree program concentration. This concentration combines mathematics content in the Department of Mathematical Sciences with Mathematics Education Leadership coursework. Students prepare to assume positions of leadership in school mathematics. For more information about the program, contact the Mathematics Education Center (703-993-4789). Applications are available online at: http://admissions.gmu.edu/onapps.asp

Cultural Exchange: Pakistani Educators Participate in GMU Mathematics Education Programs

During fall semester 2004 and summer semester 2005, two groups of 25 Pakistani Educators are attending Mason classes and participating in Mathematics Education Leadership coursework as part of the Pakistan Teacher Education and Professional Development Program. The goals of this program include coursework in mathematics education, leadership and professional development, university linkages, and cross-cultural exchange. The program is funded through the Academy for International Development with Jack Levy as PI of the project and Patricia Moyer-Packenham as coordinator of the mathematics education programs. Mathematics educators serving as instructors for the coursework include Patricia Robertson, Johnna Bolyard, and John Staley. All three instructors are current or former MEL PhD students at GMU.

Mathematics Education Center Welcomes New Colleague

In January 2005, MEC welcomed Johnna Bolyard to the Center. Johnna joins MEC as a research faculty member and the Project Manager of the Math Science Partnership
Program Evaluation. She comes to MEC from the Loudoun County Public School System where she served as a classroom teacher and a Senior Mathematics Specialist during her 7 years in the system. WELCOME Johnna!

**Award Winning Mathematics Education Leadership Students**

CONGRATULATIONS to Jennifer M. Suh – recipient of the 2005 Graduate School of Education PhD Award.

CONGRATULATIONS to Johnna J. Bolyard, Vanessa Finneman, and Gwenanne Salkind – recipients of 2004-2005 Doctoral Student Fellowship Awards!

CONGRATULATIONS to Wendy Schudmak – recipient of the 2004-05 CEHD MEL Master’s Degree Student $500 Fellowship Award!

An important goal of the Center is to support students enrolled in the Mathematics Education Leadership programs through the Center’s externally funded research and other CEHD funding opportunities. Funding has supported MEL students in a variety of ways. These resources enable students to engage in professional activities that support their development in mathematics education leadership.

**MEC Center Director & Assistant Director Present at AERA 2005**

The annual AERA 2005 Conference was held April 11-15, 2005, in Montreal, Canada. MEC Directors presented the following sessions:

- What is Learned About Engineering Students’ Mathematical Modeling? (M. Hjalmarson)
- Teacher as Tool Designer: Practical Tool Design as a View into Practice (M. Hjalmarson)

**Mathematics Education Leadership Program Welcomes New Cohorts**

The Mathematics Education Leadership Program is pleased to welcome two new cohorts of students to the Ph.D. and M.Ed. programs. This group began study during the fall 2004 semester. MEL students will have opportunities to collaborate on research projects, write for publication, and develop and deliver national and international conference presentations during their study in the program. The cohort is made up of individuals with a variety of strengths and experiences in mathematics education and leadership. WELCOME students!

For more information about the MEL programs, students can visit the CEHD/GSE website or contact MEL Program Coordinator, Patricia Moyer-Packenham, pmoyer@gmu.edu or (703) 993-3926.

**MEL Faculty and Students Present at NCTM 2005**

The annual NCTM Conference was held April 6-9, 2005, in Anaheim, CA. Several of our own Mathematics Education Leadership faculty and students presented the following sessions:

- John Staley – Visually Appealing Algebra
- Taylor Martin & Patricia Moyer-Packenham – Virtual Manipulatives for Elementary and Preservice Mathematics Teaching
- Allison Roberts & Tamie Lankey Dickson – Not Enough Time in the Day? Make Time for Math!


**MEL Students and Alumni Making Positive Change in Mathematics Education**

During the time that Mathematics Education Leadership students are enrolled in the program and following their graduation, they make significant contributions to mathematics
education in a variety of leadership roles. Many MEL students begin the program as classroom teachers and, through their own personal initiative and professional development, they move into positions of leadership in school systems, universities, and other professional organizations. We are proud of their leadership accomplishments listed below:

- Cheryl Gray – Middle School Mathematics Specialist, Spotsylvania County Public Schools.
- Vickie Inge – Co-PI of an NSF grant providing the model for VA Mathematics Specialist licensure, and Mathematics Supervisor, Stafford County Public Schools.
- Tamie Lankey – Teacher Ambassador, Teach for Virginia.
- Monique Lynch, Ph.D. – NCTM Director of Professional Development and Services.
- Johnna Bolyard – Research Faculty, Mathematics Education Center, George Mason University.
- Lorraine Smith – Elementary Mathematics Specialist, Loudoun County Public Schools.
- John Staley – Coordinator of Secondary Mathematics, Baltimore County Public Schools.
- Jennifer Suh, Ph.D. – Adjunct Faculty, Mathematics Education, George Mason University.

We congratulate our students and alumni on all of their successes!

**A Productive Visit for Korean Scholar and MEC Center Director**

During the 2003-2004 academic year, Dr. Hae-Ja Heo, Professor of Mathematics Education at Kwandong University, South Korea, visited and collaborated with American host and MEC Center Director, Patricia Moyer-Packenham. During the visit Drs. Moyer-Packenham and Heo worked with MEL Doctoral Student, Jennifer Suh, on research that resulted in the following publications on virtual manipulatives: