



TIME Director Receives Q Award

By Michael London

On June 2, 2005, Dr. Alice Artzt was presented the Q Award at the annual Queens College Gala held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square. The Q Award honors individuals whose lives serve as models for Queens College students. Another recipient of this year's Q Award was Lewis Cullman, chairman of the Chess-in-the-Schools program. This year, the Gala raised \$820,000 that will be used towards scholarships and academic research at the college.

The Gala, which included a cocktail hour, dinner, and the Q Award presentations, was attended by 435 people, including over 100 family members, friends, and students of Dr. Artzt, as she is one of the most popular professors at Queens College. However, it is not because she is an easy professor; on the contrary, Dr. Artzt's courses are notorious for keeping students busy. Dr. Artzt's popularity stems from the fact that when a student is enrolled in one of her courses, he or she will feel loved. Each and every day, students can count upon receiving a big smile from Professor Artzt. Furthermore, Dr. Artzt brings a unique sense of enthusiasm to the classroom.

In addition to being enthusiastic, Dr. Artzt possesses an extraordinary amount of knowledge with regards to the field of Mathematics Education. Consequently, Dr. Artzt's students can feel confident that they are learning from the best, and that all of their hard work will pay off when they become great mathematics teachers.

As the evening progressed, all of Dr. Artzt's students gave their personal congratulations through joyous displays of affection. It is clear that Dr. Artzt is more than just a professor; she is a guide, a mentor, and a friend. "Everyone loves Alice!" says her colleague, Dr. Fran Curcio.

Voices from the Field

By Rebecca M. Steiner, TIME-4

When TIME 2000 students wonder where their first teaching jobs will be, the schools that generally come to mind are various middle and high schools in Queens and Long Island. Almost all of the TIME 2000 graduates are teaching in such schools. My situation, however, is quite unique; I am the first TIME 2000 graduate to begin teaching on the college level. I don't see it as a job; I see it as an enjoyable part of my graduate work.



I knew all along that I wanted to continue my education in pure mathematics after completing my undergraduate studies. I applied to various doctoral programs in New York City, and the one that seemed to fit me the best was the one at the CUNY Graduate Center. While TIME 2000 provided me with free tuition for my four years of college, I was now worried about financing graduate study. CUNY Graduate students can be granted tuition waivers if they perform some sort of service to the CUNY system, for example, teaching at one of the



senior colleges. I spoke to Dr. Goldberg of our very own mathematics department here at QC to see if there was an adjunct position open. As it happens, Dr. Goldberg said he had one class left without a teacher, and it was mine if I wanted it.

It's not that I don't want to teach on the high school level – I love teaching young students and I intend to teach high school at some point in the future. But for the moment, college teaching suits my needs better. It is so hard to get a part-time high school teaching job, and I could not go to graduate school full-time if I was teaching full time. This college teaching job serves many purposes for me: it provides me with a tuition waiver for graduate study, it is a source of income (albeit modest) which I can use for various travel expenses, and it allows me to teach even though I am in school full-time. I don't think I could have imagined a better situation for myself.

I am proud to be able to teach in the same institution where I was taught almost everything I know about math. My former professors are now my colleagues, and so I have numerous individuals to turn to for help. It is easy for me to imagine myself in my students' shoes because it was only a few years ago that I was a student in that very same classroom!

My favorite part of teaching is creating exams. I know it sounds tedious, but I love the feeling of knowing that the test that I am creating is accurately going to measure how much knowledge the students have absorbed. I love the process of building an exam, question by question, making sure everything is clear and not redundant, and testing different kinds of strengths (graphical, numerical, conceptual).

Remember the lessons you will learn in your methods class and during student-teaching. Even teaching on the college level, I find myself remembering things that Dr. Artzt told me a long time ago. In fact, just the other day I was observed by a senior member of the math department, and all the things he complimented me on were things I learned from Dr. Artzt or Dr. Curcio. Wherever you end up teaching, on whatever level, your extensive TIME 2000 training will help you the entire way.

Monstrous Math Mistakes

By May Wong, Deepak Joseph and Samantha MacKinnon

How many times have you heard someone say, "I can't do math"? Why is it socially acceptable to admit this while it is not acceptable to boast, "I cannot read"? Mathematical illiteracy is often fostered in the media, be it in print advertisements or direct mathematical abuse.

One clothing manufacturer, David and Goliath, actually makes a tank top with the words "I'm too pretty to do math" printed across the chest. Are they trying to say that math is only to be attempted by those who are unattractive?

[Editor's note: There are many attractive math majors in the TIME 2000 program.]



The "One Day Sale" advertised at Macy's is designed to attract consumers to shop and spend money. People believe they can save a lot of money when such events are promoted. Customers see signs such as 50% off the original price, and then an extra 15% off on at the register. If you ask them, "Would you prefer 50% off the original price and then an extra 15% off at the register, or 60% off from the original price?" too many will agree that the first deal is a better offer because they believe that the overall discount is 65%. They may be trapped by an advertising tactic that depends on people having weak math abilities. What too many shoppers don't realize is that the actual discount is 57.5% off the original price, not 65%. So, be a wise shopper the next time you are in a store promoting a "One Day Sale". Don't let this well-planned advertising tactic confuse you!

It doesn't stop there. There are many more instances where we found inaccurate mathematics. One food store markets produce for .79¢ per pound. It is either offering a great deal, or the store

doesn't realize that it is charging you 79/100 of a penny. Combining the decimal point and the cent sign is a huge mathematical error overlooked by the marketing executive. In this situation, you can actually toss the cashier a penny, yell "keep the change", and run out the door as fast as possible without being considered a shoplifter. But I wouldn't recommend doing that!

Have you ever been to McDonald's and had the Oreo McFlurry? Whoever invented that is a genius, but that's not the point. If you read the menu carefully, you'll notice that one McFlurry costs \$1.99. But then right next to it, in a more vibrant font, it says "Two for \$3.98". The first time I saw that, I had to stop and scratch my head. "Wait a minute. Where's the discount?" a little voice said to me. You're really not saving any money by buying two. This was just a clever trick to deceive the consumer. But they couldn't fool this mathematician. No sir. However, I bought two anyway because the picture they had up was just too tempting.

Mrs. Field's Cookies, as reported by a TIME 2000 graduate, advertised: "25% More Exciting!" Buy 3 cookies, get 1 free! Can you find the math error in this one?

One last math blunder: Six plus two equals eight, not eight factorial. The accompanying picture is from a box of ice cream bars. I was hoping it contained 40,320 ice cream bars. Alas, it was only an exclamation point, not a factorial sign.



If you encounter any monstrous math mistakes this holiday shopping season, please let us know at irrationalwriters@yahoo.com. Happy shopping!

Summer Vacation

By Mamadou Diallo

When I joined the TIME 2000 program, the first person that I became friends with was Shari Eng. Through her, I became friends with the other TIME seniors, who are now some of the most important people in my life.

My fellow classmates, Shari, Julio, Irene, Kristina, Sahil, May, and I felt that the bond that we developed during our freshmen, sophomore, and junior years was too precious to let fade away simply because we didn't allow our friendships to grow beyond the walls of Queens College. During the past three years, we have all grown so much closer that it created a relationship of interdependence among us. Like the butterfly effect, if Shari's life varied in any way, it would in some way affect the lives of the rest of us.

Towards the end of the Spring 2005 semester, we all felt sad that we would not see each other during the summer vacation. We feared that a void would arise in our hearts because we were so accustomed to being together almost every single day. One day, as we were sitting in the school cafeteria having lunch, as we usually do, Sahil had an epiphany!

He said, "Hey! What do you guys think about going on a trip?"

There was no need to ask twice, because we were all screaming, "Yes! Yes!"

On July 20, 2005, we embarked on an adventure to Lake George in upstate New York. Not only did we relax and have fun barbecuing, swimming, and jet-skiing, but

we realized how lucky we are to have each other. We had a lot of fun during our trip, and I cannot find the words to describe our exciting experience. Therefore, I'll allow my family members (that's how I prefer to think of them) to speak for me:

"The fact that we all got to spend time together was really nice. We all got to know each other better. Loved the BBQ!! Laughed a LOT because of Diallo. It was also fun just to be around all of you!" -May

"The whole experience was memorable. At QC it is hard for us to actually spend time together besides spending time in the computer lab. We spent almost every moment together at Lake George. From the late night BBQs to the early morning breakfast and swimming lessons; we got to have so much fun. Even till this day, we still discuss our funny experiences, especially 'Diallo's Game'. I love you guys!"

-Shari

"I loved this trip. My TIME 2000 friends and I got so close after this, our friendship got stronger, and I love the fact that we're going to do it again. Everything about the trip was fun, I loved it."

-Julio

"I enjoyed our little 'Follow the Leader Game', our scavenger hunt for jet skiing, our over-populated mosquito barbecues, our rock climbing on the stream, our teaching each other to swim (in 4 foot water), but most of all, it had to be spending time with my friends."

-Irene



"We had a lot of great laughs with people flipping in the water, teaching others to swim, and creating five-star meals on the BBQ."

-Kristina

"This was by far the best trip I have been on in a long time. We have so many memories and jokes that we will tell stories about this trip for years to come."

-Sahil

It is noticeable that each person emphasized spending time with one another as being the aspect of the trip that he/she enjoyed the most. That was my favorite part, too. In mathematical terms, it's the greatest common factor! This experience surely changed our lives and brought us closer together as a family. It will give us a reason to cherish our friendships and never let them perish under any circumstances. I hope that this article will inspire you to appreciate and value the family atmosphere that exists in TIME 2000. We are forever grateful to the TIME 2000 program for bringing us together!

Visit TIME 2000 on the web:

www.qc.edu/time2000

SuDoku

SuDoku is a Japanese term which means "single number". It is also a fun logic puzzle in which you have to place the numbers 1-9 so that they appear in each row, each column, and each 3x3 grid, only once.

5	6					2		
9			1	6				
				8				
	2				3	9	5	
	7						3	
	4	9	5					1
				1				
				4	8			9
		2					4	1

For more SuDoku puzzles, check out the next edition of *Reflections of TIME!*

The first person to submit the solution to the TIME office will receive a TIME 2000 gift!

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Question: What do you get when you divide the Circumference of a jack-o-lantern by the diameter of the jack-o-lantern?

Answer: Pumpkin π

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Congratulations to:

Sabrina Anderson (T-5) on the birth of her son Calvin, Jr.

David Chow (T-4) and Vidya Sriprasad (T-4) on their engagement

Irene Allanah Coyle (T-5) on her engagement

Irina Kimyagarov (T-2) on the birth of her daughter Berta

Sarit Livi (T-6) on her marriage on June 19th 2005

Ana Mojocoa (T-4) on the birth of her son Christian

Chana Silbergleit (T-4) on her engagement