

Reflections of TIME



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A publication of the TIME 2000 program



This first issue of the TIME 2000 Newsletter is one more indication of the multiple talents, interests, and abilities of TIME 2000 students. Two months ago, when I first announced my desire to institute a newsletter written by students for students, I did not know what the reaction would be. Knowing the demanding course of study TIME 2000 students take and the busy lives they lead, I was concerned that there might be reluctance to take on such a job. I could not have been more wrong. So many people rose to the challenge with enthusiasm, a wealth of ideas, and a willingness to participate in different capacities. And so another TIME 2000 dream has become a reality.

The goal of the newsletter is to be both informational and inspirational. Therefore, I know that this and future issues will be filled with helpful information regarding TIME 2000 and other mathematics-related events. I eagerly anticipate reading fascinating stories about TIME 2000 undergraduates, graduates who are teaching, and other influential mathematicians and mathematics educators. I look forward to being entertained by cartoons, math puzzles and other activities inspired by our creative TIME 2000 students. I am certain that this newsletter will provide a new form of communication for the TIME 2000 community that will develop in exciting and unexpected ways over the coming years.

I wish the TIME 2000 Newsletter staff luck and congratulate them on producing this wonderful first issue.

Alice Artzt



Congratulations Class of 2003!!!

By: Luis Saltos

Every time that I tutor someone I imagine myself in front of a classroom. That is one of the experiences that I cherish the most from having the privilege of being a member of TIME 2000 - the opportunity to put into practice what I've learned in this program. Our new graduates will have that honor on a daily basis. They have in their hands the future of America's youth, along with all its dreams and aspirations, and this future is sure to be a bright one with the help of this new generation of teachers. They have reached the peak of the mountain. They each have gone above and beyond the requirements for becoming an outstanding teacher, a TIME 2000 teacher.

Our graduates will make a difference in the methods of teaching. It has been four years, during which they have put soul, body, and heart into what they have a fascination for. The day has finally arrived, and they will certainly be ready to take charge of this new challenge, a challenge for which they have been prepared by the best professors one could have. I know how hard they've worked with Dr. Artzt when preparing their portfolios. Rocio Saborido remarks that this is one of her fondest memories of the program: "Last semester, when we were all putting our portfolios together, we all stayed up until very late hours. We all knew everyone else was up, so we would just call each other at these ungodly hours. There were many stressful moments like these, but it was great to have a group of people that really understood what you were going through, because they were

going through the same thing."

Rocio highlights one of the most important aspects about being a member of TIME 2000. We are there for each other at every moment, and it is the seniors who are living proof that TIME 2000 is not only a wonderful program, it is a family; one that is going to be very hard to forget. That is why many of our graduates will stay with us on campus, but now as graduate students pursuing a Masters degree in Mathematics Education. Irina Zavurov mentioned that her only choice for a graduate school is Queens College, not because QC is the nearest school to her home, but because no other institution could compete with what QC has to offer.

Some of the seniors have been offered jobs, and a few have already accepted, such as Rocio who has accepted a teaching position at Oceanside H.S. Amazingly, four of our students have been offered jobs in the same district. Irina, Chris Persaud, and Nicole Feng will be working together in Elmont Memorial H.S. and Jackie Seenarraine has accepted a job at H. Frank Carey H.S. in the Sewanhaka District.

To have a strong philosophy of education is critical to the impact that one wants to make on his or her future students. All of the seniors agree that their SEYS classes have helped them to establish their own philosophy of education, and all of them follow a similar idea: cooperative learning seems to be one of the key characteristics of successful teaching. This type of education gives you a firm belief in what you are learning and makes you look at teaching in a very positive way, and by doing so, this belief hopefully gets transmitted to your students.

Irina Zavurov, Rocio Saborido, Jackie Seenarraine, Nicole Feng, Carleen Hoahing, Kathy Koczela, Chris Persaud, and Michael Cardona: Class of 2003, it

all depends on you now. You have proven to be brave individuals of excellent principles. You have made it to the end of the road, and now a new journey is awaiting you. You are ready to take this challenge because you have worked persistently towards your goal in becoming great mathematics teachers, and believe me, you are not only a hot commodity as mathematics teachers, but an even hotter commodity as TIME 2000 graduates. CONGRATULATIONS!!!

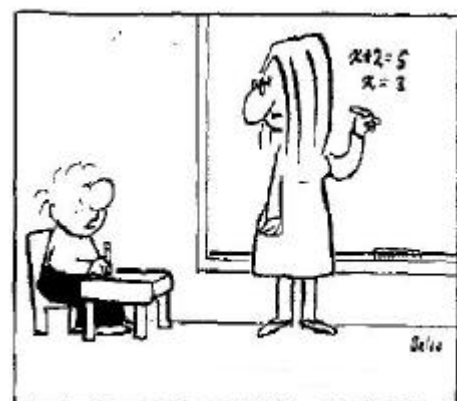


Voices From the Field

By: Tara Wachter

My experiences as a first-year seventh grade mathematics teacher at Herricks Middle School on Long Island have been gratifying, rewarding, and stimulating. Over the past few months, I became more flexible, open-minded, and spontaneous as I was exposed to the joys and challenges of teaching. Like any profession, there are pleasurable and satisfying days, while others are extremely difficult. Regardless, every new day must be faced with energy and optimism. *Continued*

FUN Corner



"Just a minute! Yesterday you said X equals Two!"

I have witnessed the benefits of using several reform-minded teaching strategies, such as hands-on, student-centered instruction, problem-centered instruction, real-life applications, and technology. One of my most exciting lessons was when we were learning about finding the percent of a number, and the students computed tips for service in a local Italian restaurant called Mama Theresa's Restaurant. The students were given an actual restaurant bill to verify, and determine whether any errors existed. Students were given copies of the restaurant menu to check the cost of each item. During the lesson, students shared a variety of approaches for computing the tip for service in a restaurant. As an extension of this lesson for homework, students investigated other places where tips for service are necessary such as in hair and nail salons, pet grooming stores, hotel lobbies, on bus tours, for take-out delivery orders, and for livery drivers.

Once I find what excites me, I try to capture my students' attention by designing relevant lessons that seem meaningful to their lives based upon my knowledge of their experiences, interests, and natural curiosities. Interestingly enough, I also incorporate my own hobbies into my teaching. For instance, I love New York City, and I frequently view museum exhibits, and attend theater, classical music, and dance performances. My experiences show me that once you put a part of yourself into your lessons, you are more confident and enthusiastic, and this tone is subtly communicated to your students.

Regardless of your stage in education, you must find a balance between your personal and professional life in order to remain healthy both emotionally and physically. Interests need to be developed beyond the work setting to secure continual relaxation.

My first year as a teacher has been very introspective, where I have learned about the mathematics content and myself through my interactions with my colleagues, professors, peers, and students. I look forward to learning continually from those around me as I continue to develop as a reflective mathematics teacher.

Teacher Appreciation Award

By: Irene Coyle, May Wong



Each January, Dr. Artzt holds a reunion dinner party for her past and present students, and each year, she asks her current students to nominate math teachers that had a significant impact on their decisions to become mathematics teachers. This award is presented to the teacher at the dinner party.

This past January we nominated our high school teacher, Ms. Barbara Tokarska, from St. John's Preparatory School in Astoria, for this award.

Ms. Tokarska is the first math teacher we thought of for this honor. It wasn't because May got that ninety in her class, but it was because she truly represents herself as a math teacher and is always willing to try her best to share her knowledge. She also inspired us to become math teachers, to share our knowledge with future generations.

Ms. Tokarska was different from other math teachers because she cherished every minute that she had with the class. She always helped us learn as much as we could in each period. She gave extra credit points the day before the test to add to our learning in a positive way.

Ms. Tokarska allowed us fully to understand the importance of being a teacher. A teacher has a lot of responsibilities and needs to be prepared for every class. We want to be in her position one day and change the students' perspective in learning math. We want to make students' lives much easier and make math a fun subject.

LIMAÇON

By: Jenny Cheung

LIMAÇON is a place where teachers and future teachers share their ideas about mathematics teaching with their colleagues. This year's Long Island Mathematics Conference was terrific because all the sessions I attended were geared to future teachers. My first session showed me how to get students' attention by using numbers. For example you can obtain 1729 in at least two ways using cubes; $(1^3) + (12^3)$ and $(9^3) + (10^3)$.



My second session was about preparing future teachers for interviews and preparing résumés, which made me feel more comfortable about the employment process. The last session was about two teachers' experiences of their first year of teaching. I found it very interesting, especially the part when they told us to greet the students at the door to show respect and gain respect from them. LIMAÇON is really a great place

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where teachers from all over N.Y open their hearts about teaching and their students.

Remember the Alamo!

By: Rebecca Steiner

During the week of April 7, the TIME 2000 professors, along with two students and two graduates, went to the annual National Council of Teachers of Mathematics conference in San Antonio, Texas. I was so happy to be able to attend this wonderful conference. It was huge! There were over a thousand sessions given by math teachers from all over the country. I went to some very nice sessions at the conference, but the best part was the exhibitors' hall, where book publishers and software developers and other math-related companies and organizations had booths to display their products and/or to sell them. We were also fortunate to have beautiful weather while we were there, and Mrs. Weinman, Irina, and I got to do some sightseeing; in particular, we went to see the Alamo, which I have never visited before. I hope to be able to go to the next annual conference, because this was an absolutely amazing experience.



MATH Links

Rated by: Wendy Soohoo

www.SoSmath.com



www.exploremath.com



www.edhelper.com



Thanks from the Staff

By: Vidya Sriprasad

We would like to first thank Dr. Artzt for her inspiration for the newsletter, because it gives us a chance to know what's been going on within the TIME 2000 program and with the graduates. *Reflections of TIME* provides news from the past, present and future. This was definitely a great idea to be able to communicate with each other in a new way.

On behalf of the TIME 2000 Newsletter staff, we would like to say thank you to all who enjoyed reading our first issue. We hope to expand it in the future by taking you with us. If you have any comments, opinions or would like to become a willing participant by sharing your experiences, you can email us at RofT2k@yahoo.com. We hope to see you soon with more news from the TIME 2000 staff and associates in our next *Reflections of TIME*.