

Reflections of TIME

TIME 2000 Newsletter

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TIME—6 GRADUATES!

On May 31, 2007, the members of TIME-6 will graduate from Queens College. Congratulations to: Sabrina Anderson, Lysaundra Bisal, Christina Dennison, Nicole Francipane, Nadia Jackson, Kendal Jones, Deepak Joseph, Michael London, Samantha MacKinnon, Jindrizka Martin, Javaria Ramzan, Paula Rosenblatt, Nancy Santos, and Vicky Vartholomeos.

As their senior year draws to a close, the members of TIME-6 offer their reflections on the past 4 years as well as advice for under-

graduate students waiting to experience all that senior year has to offer.

Paula Rosenblatt: It has been a very interesting and rewarding four years. I am very appreciative to have been in the TIME 2000 Program.

Kendal Jones: I have learned so much from this program! My greatest memories come from senior year. Student teaching is the most rewarding experience and I cannot wait until I am in my own classroom! My advice to the undergraduates would be to work hard now because it all pays off!

Michael London: I'm glad I was able to enter a program that trained me so well to become a teacher. I feel well prepared to enter the field of teaching. I thank TIME 2000 for allowing me to make so many

great friends! It was a great feeling knowing that I always had someone to turn to if I ever needed help. I wish my fellow T-6'ers the very best of luck!



My fondest TIME memory was the trip to the Hall of Science. I had a great time that day learning about the math in many different exhibits. In addition, I also made a lot of great new friends that day.

Lysaundra Bisal: The TIME 2000 Program is the reason I have gone four years without much sleep, but also the reason I will not be just a math teacher. I will be a math leader who makes a difference. I couldn't have done it without TIME 2000; I couldn't have gotten through it alone. I'd like to thank my cheering section and the shoulders I've cried on. Thank you Jinka and Vicky, for giving me someone to lean on.

Samantha MacKinnon: Honestly, there isn't just one memory that comes to mind when thinking of my time in the TIME 2000 Program. I think

it's really the collection of memories that we've made as a class throughout the years. From struggling through abstract algebra, to working at the conferences, to

presenting at seminars, to debating in class, to finally student teaching, we've really all become a big family!

I will definitely miss seeing all of the familiar TIME faces -- in the lab, in the office, on campus, almost anywhere. It's always comforting to know that my TIME family is around. But I am looking forward to

finally having my own classroom so I can put all of the hard work to good use.

At this point, the only advice I can give to the undergrads is that all these classes may seem like A LOT of work. That won't end... ever. But, I will promise that it all pays off in the end. By the time student teaching rolls around, you are extremely prepared.

Make sure you get sleep; some of us seem to forget that at times. And one more thing... don't forget to eat! Student teachers/TIME 2000 students don't get a lot of free time to eat but when you hear your stomach rumbling, go grab some lunch from the library!

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SENIOR AWARDS! CONGRATULATIONS TO:

NICOLE FRANCIPIANE on receiving the Herb Fremont Memorial Award in Education.

DEEPAK JOSEPH and KENDAL JONES on receiving awards for their hard work with the Big Buddy Program!

MICHAEL LONDON on his induction into the Kappa Delta Pi (Education) and Phi Beta Kappa (Mathematics) Honor Societies in addition to graduating with honors in mathematics at Commencement 2007!

PAULA ROSENBLATT on receiving the Claire and Samuel Jacobs Award in Mathematics!

TIME 2000 Goes to LIMAÇON!

By: Alexandria Kubic (T-9), Yady Marashizadeh (T-7), Nicole Wong (T-9)



On March 16, 2007, TIME 2000 students and faculty attended the 21st annual Long Island Mathematics Conference (LIMAÇON), held at SUNY

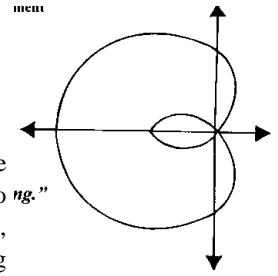
Old Westbury. Many wonderful and exciting things were learned, and 9 students volunteered to present their ideas at the March 2007 Seminar. However, since we could not see all that LIMAÇON had to offer, students offered to share their interesting, first experiences.

Nicole Wong: This was my first time attend-

ing LIMAÇON. I thought it was an enlightening experience. Cathy Seeley's PowerPoint presentation was very clever, taking common phrases and slogans that we hear all the time, and showed how they can be applied to so many other things that we never realized before. [Editor's Note: Cathy Seeley's PowerPoint Presentation can be found on the TIME 2000 SharePoint site.]

One of the classes I attended was about Tangrams. We were instructed to try to make any regular polygon using the tangrams, a challenging but fun task, to show students that you can have one problem, but many

solutions. After we were shown how to "ng." create a square, another interesting aspect was revealed. We were asked, "Without moving the tangrams, think, if you were given two sets of tangrams, could you create another square?" The entire class joined in discussion and gave their reasoning of why they thought making a larger square using two sets of tangrams would, or would not, be possible. Surprisingly, the correct answer is: you can.



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By Dr. Metas, We Shall Mean...

By: Carolina Galvis (T-7), Julie Mehta (T-7)

Quick!!! What's the closest thing to perfection?!! According to Dr. Nick Metas, the answer is mathematics. Dr. Metas is a professor in his 41st year of teaching at Queens College, or as he would say, "The jewel of the City University of New York." After having taught countless courses, he is guaranteed to run into a former student anywhere he goes. Once, on a flight to London, a drunken passenger introduced himself as a former student...but we won't get into that. As a 1957 graduate of City College who obtained his doctorate from M.I.T, Dr. Metas began his teaching career here and proudly proclaims that he would teach nowhere else.

Although it might be hard to believe, Dr. Metas did not always want to be a math teacher. In Pre-K, during the days in which houses were heated with coal, he aspired to be a coal deliverer, or a grocery man. Later on, the baseball fanatic wanted to follow in Mel Allen's footsteps by becoming a broadcaster for the NY Yankees, so he could see every game while always having a hot dog in his hand. At Newtown High School, he found himself torn between pursuing a career in Language or Mathematics, but by senior year he was, "seized by mathematics."

Before coming to Queens College, Dr. Metas was a teaching assistant at M.I.T. for numerous math courses; it was at this point

that he had his first taste of teaching. Currently, apart from the 6 hours he devotes to his classes, Dr. Metas has taken on numerous administrative responsibilities in the Math Department. He is the Evening Session Chairman and the advisor for the Pure & Applied Mathematics graduate program. If that's not enough, Dr. Metas also organizes the entire course schedule every semester, working hard to keep faculty, adjuncts, students, the Registrar, and administration happy. Even though he compares his workload to the chaotic sounds of Tchaikovsky's "First Movement of his Fourth Symphony," he has continued to handle it for over 30 years.

As Dr. Metas unwraps a homemade peanut butter and jelly sandwich, the phone rings and he quickly takes the call, saying it's his wife asking what time she should pick him up. After learning that they have only been married for 15 years, we are curious to know the story behind Dr. and Mrs. Metas. He smiles and says, "It's a long story."

Upon ending her career as a flight attendant for PanAmerican World Airways, Barbara, the future Mrs. Metas, enrolled in Queens College in January of 1988 to further her education. Switching math sections numerous times, she crossed paths with Dr. Metas on each occasion. As the semester progressed, she would go to the Math Department for tutoring. Enter Dr. Metas! Eventu-

ally, their sessions were followed by a bite to eat and the two developed a relationship outside of the college. Dr. Metas precisely recalls the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, 1988 as the day he knew Barbara was "Mrs. Right." It was then that he told her, "YOU ARE CAUSING ME TO RE-EXAMINE THE AXIOMS ACCORDING TO WHICH I HAVE BEEN LIVING!" The two became Dr. and Mrs. Nick Metas on July 25th, 1992. They honeymooned in his parents' native country of Greece and have been traveling the world together ever since. Out of all the places he has been— England, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, Korea, China and Iceland—Dr. Metas dubs Paris, France as his favorite, claiming "If you like New York, you'll like Paris!"

When asked what he foresees in the next 5 years, Dr. Metas jokingly answered, "I hope I'm alive!" He says he feels terrific and has no plans to retire any time soon. His advice to anyone: "Find a job you really love. I'm being paid to talk about something I'm passionate about!" Without any regrets, he states, "They say the smarter you are, the more depressed you become. I must be a dope because I'm quite content here."



Dr. Metas

New Web Address!
<http://time2000.qc.cuny.edu>

TIME—6 GRADUATES! (continued)

Vicky Vartholomeos: As the end of the semester trickles in, the TIME 2000 seniors can almost taste glory! “We made it! We’re alive!” These are comments we are longing to exclaim. After 4 years of early morning seminars, late night lesson planning, papers and portfolios, we are approaching the finish line. The purpose of celebrating this bittersweet time in our lives is twofold: 1) to reflect on the past and be grateful for the good and the bad, 2) to look ahead and envision what a better place the world of education will be



purpose of celebrating this bittersweet time in our lives is twofold: 1) to reflect on the past and be grateful for the good and the bad, 2) to look ahead and envision what a better place the world of education will be

as a result of our preparation and passion in the field of mathematics.

Dr. Artzt believes a good teacher always reflects on his or her lessons. Reflecting on the past 4 years, I feel grateful for all the moments where I have struggled because it made me a stronger person, and it taught me to never give up on myself. I think there were times when we all thought we would never make it. But after 4 years of unconditional support from our TIME family, we eventually began to see how great we’ve really become. We’re going to be amazing teachers!

As we think of our future, I would like to wish my colleagues great success. We have

come this far, some of us undergoing more obstacles than smooth roads, but as we start our careers in September, I would like for all of you to remember...we are prepared for this challenge! As you stand in front of 30 students on September 4, 2007, look at them, smile and think to yourself, “I was made for this job! I am going to try to be the best math teacher I can be!” Your students will not necessarily remember you by the mathematics you taught them, but they will remember you by the unconditional love you have for your profession. Remember: always smile because it may be the only smile your students get to see everyday!

Best wishes and good luck to the graduates on all their future endeavors! Congratulations!



Adventures of a TIME Student in Japan!

By: Sarah Hofer (T- 8)

As I biked to the train, the wind was blowing across the narrow road. I reached the best part of my bike ride to the train. It was a clear day and I could see the snowcapped mountains in the distance. Looking to the right and left, I saw miles of rice fields. It was beautiful.

But I could not stop for long. The Inae train station was only 5 minutes away and I had just enough time to get there. I couldn't even hope that the train would be late; trains are never late in Japan.

For 2 weeks in January, I stayed with my brother. He lives in Toyosato, a small town about an hour away from Kyoto, a major city. He has been there for over 18 months teaching English as part of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. He originally signed up for 1 year, but quickly re-contracted for a second and third year. Some think he's crazy, but it's a once in a lifetime opportunity to immerse yourself in a completely different culture. And different is an understatement.

Most of what you've heard about Japan is probably true. The people drink a lot of tea and eat foods we've never heard of. They ride bicycles and drive little cars to get the Shinkansen, or bullet train.

Students are disciplined and studious.

Actually, most students are well behaved, but not all of them. My brother's school in Shiga Prefecture is the fifth worst school in the area. Granted, the fifth worst school in Shiga is not comparable to that of New York City, but the students in my brother's school are far from the Japanese stereotype.



Students act out in class, if they go; they walk in and out of classes while teachers are teaching and go to the roof of the building to smoke. And that's just the beginning. There are kids who throw chairs and desks, kids who climb up the side of the building to the second story, and even a kid who started a fight with a teacher. There are no security guards to call if things get out of hand; the teachers are in charge of everything, including janitorial work.

The faculty consists of a principal, 2 vice principals, 2 secretaries and about 15 teachers. The teachers are entrusted with everything, from keeping the students under control to cleaning up after them. And home-room teachers even visit students at home to talk with the parents. Things are different in Japan. Very different.

As different as things are there, it is a wonderful place, steeped in thousands of years of history. I always felt welcomed wherever I

went, even when I was fumbling with my translation book, trying to put a sentence together. I was able to see gardens, shrines, temples, castles, museums, and memorials to those who died in the Hiroshima bombing, among other things.

This trip was much different from my first visit, 5 years ago. During that trip, I did a home stay, spent a few days at a scout jamboree and visited sites on a tour bus. This time around, I traveled a lot on my own, as my brother worked during the day, and I was able to learn much more about the culture and history of Japan through talking to people.

One thing I liked in Japan was the respect the adults had when I told them I was studying to become a math teacher. More than once I heard, "Ah, you must be clever." Most adults in the States make a similar remark, but some make a pained face while they say it; I have never heard the kind of reverence I heard in the voices of the Japanese adults to whom I spoke.

Like I said, things are different in Japan.

To learn more about Sarah's brother and his experiences in Japan, visit his website:

www.hellodanny.com



Sarah Hofer



This newsletter (and archived issues) are available online at:
<http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/time2000/newsletters.html>

Congratulations to:

Graduating members of TIME-6!

VICKY VARTHOLOMEOS (T-6) on her engagement and job!

2007-2008 Newsletter co-editors:

- **FERRIN MOHAMMED-BUJAN (T-9 / TA)**

- **ALEXANDRIA KUBIC (T-9)**

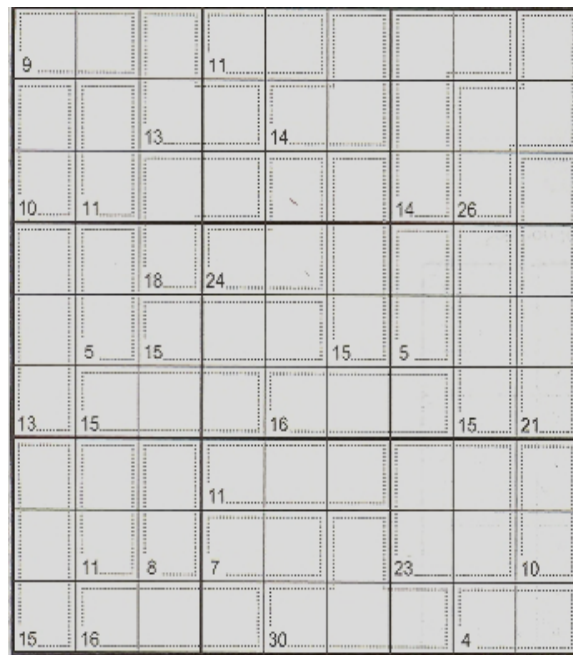
Congratulations to the 2007-2008 officers of MT4! (From left to right):



**SARAH HOFER (T-8),
 President; JACQUELINE
 WEST (T-8), Vice President;
 MI RIM KANG (T-9 / TA),
 Treasurer; NICOLE WONG
 (T-9), Secretary**

Test your mind! Try the new puzzle!

INSTRUCTIONS: This puzzle blends SUDOKU and Kakuro. The task is to fill all empty squares using the numbers 1 to 9, without repetition in a row, column, or 3x3 box, as in normal SUDOKU puzzles. However, the sum of the numbers grouped together must add up to the number in the left hand corner. Remember, no number may be used more than once in the same block!



TIME 2000 Goes To LIMAÇON! (continued)

Alexandria Kubic: As a freshman, I was skeptical of what to expect when it came to LIMAÇON. I was intimidated, knowing that it was a conference primarily for math *teachers* not students who *wanted to be* math teachers, although there were pre-service workshops. As much as I love and understand math, it was hard for me to envision myself learning next to older, wiser teachers. Once I got to the conference, I saw my fears were unfounded. Everyone was extremely welcoming. The conference as a whole was a lot of fun and extremely informative. And of course the good food was a plus!

My favorite and the most exciting session was the Mathematics in Physical Education. We went over how to integrate fun physical activities into a Math classroom. I never would have thought of bringing some of the

activities into a class. Just as I presented at the Seminar, it was interesting to calculate that tennis players have to react to the ball in the least amount of time, as opposed to baseball and softball players who don't have to react as quickly.



Yady Marashizadeh: As a future high school teacher, I often wonder what it takes to encourage students to love math, be interested in it and actually want to work in the field. At LIMAÇON, I got an answer. I observed Mr. Alan E. Alterman's presentation, *Math for Math Lovers*. It is wonderful to see how many things are out there to catch students' attention and interest in math. Mr. Alterman created a computer game to help students understand the concept of addition and subtraction. It is a puzzle where letters stand for digits, and the student has to de-

cide what number would best be represented by the given letter. The letters form words. Also, students can create their own puzzle using letters of their own choice, thereby giving the student a chance to exercise his/her literacy side.

At Mr. Alterman's presentation, there were other things that can appeal to students. For example, instead of using a "boring" formula to teach combinations, he chooses to use a chart where the students can visualize the chances of something happening through observations.

I was very happy to see that creativity is a teacher's best friend. There can be many ways to approach a student with a mathematical concept and still make the student be interested in it, simply by being creative!

With all the great lessons and ideas gained from this year's conference, next year's conference is sure to be a hit!