Mu Alpha Theta Newsletter

Spring 2008

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News from the President

Dear Mu Alpha Theta Members and Sponsors:

Another school year will soon be coming to a close and seniors will be getting ready to say goodbye to high school. For many of you, Mu Alpha Theta has been an integral part of your high school career, and I know you will look back on these years as an important part of your educational growth. Many of your classmates that you have met in Mu Alpha Theta will be lifelong friends. The **National Convention** will be held in **Sacramento, Ca.** this summer from **July 13-18, 2008**. It will be a great send off to all seniors that are going on to college in the fall. The convention is also a great place to start preparation for the fall for students that are still in high school. I encourage all chapters to consider attending the National Convention because it is a great experience and a fun time as well. For new chapters, as well as established ones, there are Convention Grants available with registration paid for a sponsor and a non-graduating senior plus $250 per person for transportation costs. Contact Kay Weiss, Executive Director of Mu Alpha Theta, at matheta@ou.edu for further information.

I encourage all students to visit the Mu Alpha Theta website as often as possible because new events, opportunities, and information are always being listed there and are updated often. Scholarships Awards, and Summer Grants are available every year and the information is at the website.

A special note to sponsors: Please consider getting more involved in the running of the National Mu Alpha Theta organization. Every two years we have an election of Governors for various regions and National officers. The continued health and growth of our National organization depends on input from interested teachers around the country. If you are willing or are interested in running for an office in the future please write to the National Office for more information. If you are at the National Convention, please talk to me or any other officer to answer any questions you may have about serving on the Governing Council.

I hope all of you have a fruitful and fun filled spring and summer and I look forward to introducing new events in the fall.

Grace Mutz, President

Sacramento Convention Registration Deadlines

April 1: Deadline for deposit to pay the early registration cost of $575 per person.

May 15: Deadline for all participants. If not enrolled early, cost is $625 per person.

National Office Update from Kay Weiss

Hope spring is blooming near you by the time our Newsletter reaches you.

We have important election materials in the envelope with this Newsletter! Please take time to read the VITA of all the candidates for President-Elect and Governor (if you are in Region 1 or Region 2). We have listed the states in these regions for you to check before casting your ballot. **Everyone votes for the President-Elect. Only those in Region 1 and Region 2 vote for a new Governor this year.**

You can vote by sending back the bottom of the voting form, emailing me the vote for your chapter, or registering your vote online by logging in at our website: www.mualphatheta.org. On the left there will be a link that says "Vote Here".

No matter what method you use to vote, your chapter will only be allowed to vote once, so if you snail mail the ballot back, make sure your school's name and address or Chapter ID number is on the outside of the envelope and the envelope must be postmarked by April 24.

This past year Mu Alpha Theta has had a number of requests from Middle School math teachers to establish some kind of Math Honor Society for their students. After discussion, the Governing Council really feels that it is very hard to define an "Honor" math student at the Middle School level. Instead, the Governing Council is exploring taking over and reactivating Chi Alpha Mu. Chi Alpha Mu, Creative Adventures in Mathematics, was modeled after Mu Alpha Theta and was organized in 1967. The organization chartered Middle School math clubs for sixth through ninth grade students. They offered a Saturday Math Event each spring and a Math Bowl competition during the year through about 2001.

If we reorganize Chi Alpha Mu, we would provide a charter to each middle school that wished to participate for $15 and then provide a certificate of merit that sponsoring teachers could purchase to award to their talented students. We would not register students as members but would allow each school to decide to whom they would present certificates. We would try to provide interesting activities for chapters, including the continuation of the Rocket City Math League competition. We would also like to see our High School Mu Alpha Theta chapters take a local Middle School club "under their wing", possibly providing tutoring, fun math activities, or coaching for a Mathcounts Team.

We are open to suggestions and would love feedback from our sponsors about what you think of this idea. It seems an appropriate extension of our mission to get students interested in math and keep them interested before it becomes "uncool". Please email me with ideas. Let me know what you think and if your Governing Council should move forward with this idea. You can write me, Kay Weiss at matheta@ou.edu, or our President, Grace Mutz at maokid1@msn.com.

2009 National Convention:

July 19-24 in Knoxville, TN

2010 National Convention:

July 25 – 30 in Alexandria, VA

(Washington, DC)

Order Service Fee

This school year the National Office began charging a $15.00 service fee for certificate orders with more than twenty names that **are not submitted electronically,** either through the online system at our website or by email. This includes orders submitted by mail and by fax. When names are submitted to the National Office through mail or fax, office staff must enter them into the system by hand, which can be a very time consuming process and increases the chance of spelling errors.

Names can be submitted online when a sponsor places an order via our website. For large orders, it is often easiest to "cut and paste" names from an existing spreadsheet or word processing document. **Remember: If your chapter is paying for an order by check, you can still place your order online. Just select "Purchase Order" as your payment option and enter the number of your check as the purchase order number.**

Some chapters prefer to submit their new member names by email. To do this, group your names by **year of graduation**, and include them in the body of your email or attach them to the email in a spreadsheet or Word document. Email your list to matheta@ou.edu

If you have questions about the online system or the ordering process, email the National Office at matheta@ou.edu or give them a call at 405-325-4489.

THANK YOU TO OUR RETIRING SPONSORS:
- Rose High School, Greenville, NC: Vickie Burlington
- La Porte High School, La Porte, TX: Ophelia Hernandez
- Cinco Ranch High School, Katy, TX: Patricia
- Ider High School, Ider, AL: Jane Adams
- North Broward Preparatory School, Coconut Creek, FL: Patricia Lee
- Secaucus High School, Secaucusm, NJ: Virginia Foley 15 years as a sponsor!
- Riverside High School, Belle, WV: Gail McClure

Award Deadlines Approach

Applications for the **Kalin Award** for an outstanding senior member of Mu Alpha Theta attending the National Convention are due June 15. The Kalin Award presents the winner $2500 in prize money and a plaque.

June 15 is also the deadline for nominations for the teacher awards presented to sponsors attending the National Convention. This year, both the **Huneke** and **Sister Scholastica** Awards will present the winning sponsor a **cash prize of $2000 and a grant of $1000** to the teacher's chapter to help cover expenses.

THE MATHEMATICAL LOG Now Posted Online!

Students, want to try some great mathematical puzzles, read interesting articles about mathematics, see what students were doing in math clubs around the country in years past? Mu Alpha Theta published The Mathematical Log from 1958 through 2002. These Logs are now being posted online at our website, www.mualphatheta.org > Mathematical Logs. There are hours of activities and puzzles for you and your chapters to look at and try your hand solving. How about making copies of something of interest to share with your Mu Alpha Theta friends! More Logs are being added periodically and we hope to have all issues back to 1958 posted by the end of the school year.

Katherine E. Dawson, sponsor of Big Walnut High School in Sunbury, OH, says the chapter is sponsoring the Staples Recycling Program.

Len Cutshaw, sponsor of Melbourne Central Catholic High School in FL, says their chapter runs a food drive every year. Last year they raised 1500 pounds of food. They also participate in the March of Dimes drive.

Ray Mark of Warwick Valley High School in NY decided to run "Warwick Feud" based on the game show Family Feud. We had approximately 140 faculty and students participate on teams of five playing against each other. We ended up having our finals in the auditorium at night using PowerPoint presentations and the smart board. We used surveys that were administered by our statistics classes as some of our questions. Attendance at the event was small (approximately 150 people), but all that attended had a great time.

Carol Botzner of Lakota West told us about their Junior High Math Competition for 7th and 8th graders from the Greater Cincinnati area in OH. The chapter has been hosted the contest each year since 1997. Last year over 200 students from 16 schools participated.

Steve Friedlander's chapter at Lawton Chiles in Tallahassee, FL also runs a Mini Mu competition for more than 400 elementary and middle schools students. Their Mu Alpha Theta students write the tests and administer the popular contest.

Let us know what your chapter has been up to!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT AND GOVERNOR FOR REGIONS 1 AND 2

From the National Student Delegate President:

Aloha to my extended Mu Alpha Theta `*ohana*! I hope this newsletter finds you in the thick of a winning spring semester, booming with anticipation for our 2008 summer convention. Like many of you, the student delegates have been looking forward to **Sacramento '08** since the close of an exciting week in Tampa last year.

Just a few updates: Led by Communications Committee Chair David Yakobovitch, the student delegation released our first newsletter of the year in early January. In it, we were able to exhibit just a snapshot of what we do, including committee work for communications, sponsorship, and recruitment. Sponsorship Chair Michael Kotarinos has been diligently seeking out corporate sponsors for both the summer convention and the various scholarships Mu Alpha Theta offers.

We are privileged to have scholarship opportunities, such as the Mu Alpha Theta Scholarship and the Mary Rhein Memorial Scholarship, available to members of Mu Alpha Theta graduating this year. The deadline for the Mu Alpha Theta Scholarships (March 15th!) is quickly approaching; so, seniors, don't delay—fill out your scholarship application and send it in with supplementary materials as soon as possible.

I have scholarship applications to attend to myself, so I hope you will pardon the brevity of my message and accept my warmest wishes for you and your chapter. Somewhere among the applications, competitions, and practice, I hope you will find some time for relaxation and enjoyment.
Malama pono. Take care.

Ciea Cummings
Student Delegate President
Kamehameha Schools Chapter
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We value your comments and suggestions regarding the convention and its featured activities, so please feel free to see your respective student representative or contact us directly with any ideas.

From the Problem Corner of the Mathematical Log, February, 1985:

A cubical box contains 27 congruent large balls; its twin contains 64 congruent smaller balls. All balls are made of the same material.

Both boxes are filled to the brim. Each layer in a box has the same number of balls, and the outside balls of each layer touch the sides.

Which box is heavier? Can you draw a general conclusion?

Work on the problem with your friends and see if you all agree.

From the Mathematical Log, September, 1975: "Magic? Probably Not"

Just for fun, have a friend write down a large number. Let's say they write down, **692437**. Explain that you are a mathematical psychic and can predict the future on an addition problem your friend is about to do. As soon as the number is written down, you write down **1692436** on another piece of paper, fold it up and hand it to your friend.

Now, have your friend write another number with the same number of digits below the one already written. Say the following is written:

$$692437$$
$$504392$$

Now, tell your friend, it is your turn to write down a random number with the same digits. You write the bottom number:

$$692437$$
$$504392$$
$$495607$$

Let your friend add the three numbers. The total is **1692436**. Have your friend open the folded paper. The answer is as you predicted!

Question? How did you know what to write? Why does it work?

Another example: Your friend writes   5246318
You write   15246317. Your friend writes 1038926
                    You write 8961073