

Math Alumni in Education

In this issue we are featuring math alumni who are making their mark in mathematics education.

Carol (Boughner) Rychlik, (B. S., 1993) I am currently teaching at Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA, Fairfax County Public Schools. I teach Algebra 2 with Trigonometry, Multivariable Calculus and Linear Algebra. I am a National Board Certified Mathematics Teacher for Secondary Education. Last year, I was a finalist for Teacher of the Year for Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia. I was chosen to be on a team of Math teachers as a delegation to China in June 1999. We were there for two days and shared the United State's math educational system with them and their shared there system with us. One of the leaders was Lee Stiff, who was the President-Elect for NCTM, National Council for Teachers of Mathematics. I can be reached at carol.rychlik@fcps.edu I look forward to hearing from other alumni.

Nancy (DiPaolo) McLaughlin (M. S., 2002) I am currently working as a secondary mathematics curriculum leader in Lawrence, MA. I started my coursework at UML as a participant in the Building Regional Capacity project. This led me to the Masters Degree program. I believe it is important for math educators to facilitate student learning, allowing students to make sense of mathematics using their *own* prior knowledge and for educators to be cognizant of multiple intelligences while they differentiate instruction.

Our district is privileged to be a part of the Focus on Math (FOM, <http://focusonmath.org/>) a National Science Foundation MSP Grant that partners University Math Professors with 5 urban school districts in Massachusetts. It is exciting to be part of NSF initiatives and curricula that will increase the level of enjoyment in mathematics for all, undoubtedly increasing the number of mathematically literate citizens.

John Tucker (B. S. 2003) For seven months, I have been teaching middle school Mathematics in an urban district just North of Boston. It has been a fascinating, challenging, frustrating and rewarding experience. The challenge comes from trying to find a way to engage all my students. There are some capable young people in my classes, and it is a pleasure to tell them things they do not yet know. The frustration is due to my as yet under-developed capability to explain the Mathematical concepts to those not yet ready to own them. The fascination comes from the exposure to a hundred different minds, all bringing their own history, ability and perspective to the topics we discuss. The reward comes when I see a young person work through the idea, when they say, \geq This is easy. \leq I treasure each of these moments.

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Following up on recent doctorates awarded to our alumni ,w e heard from **Andrew "Phred" Fredricks** (M. S., 1994). He earned a Ph D. from RPI in August 2000 and is now a mathematician at NUWC (Naval Undersea Warfare Center), Newport, RI. His web site is <http://home.comcast.net/~fredra/>