



Math in the Middle

May 2007



Andrews nominated for 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

From the time she was in second grade, Delise Andrews knew she wanted to become a teacher. “I was fascinated by my teacher’s ability to make sense of things for us,” Delise said. “I watched as my peers’ faces would light up in understanding; I thought making that happen had to be just about the best feeling in the world. And I was right!”

A 5th-grade math interventionist at Clinton Elementary School and a grades 3 to 5 Lincoln Public Schools district math teacher-leader, Delise was recently notified she is a nominee for the 2006 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. She is also member of the first graduating cohort of the Math in the Middle Institute Partnership at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Two other Math in the Middle participants were nominated in past years for the same award, which is the nation’s highest honor for teaching mathematics or science. Myrna Bornemeier, 8th-grade math teacher at Lux Middle School in Lincoln, was a 2003 nominee; Kristin Johnson, an 8th-grade math teacher at Lefler Middle School in Lincoln, was a 2005 nominee.



Delise Andrews, Kristin Johnson and Myrna Bornemeier are graduates of the Math in the Middle Institute Partnership at UNL and all have been nominees for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

The Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching recognizes outstanding kindergarten through 6th-grade and 7th- through 12th-grade math and science teachers. The program is administered by the National Science Foundation.

Delise’s teaching career began in 1993; she has taught every grade from kindergarten through eighth. She taught four years in a two-room, two-teacher school in north central Nebraska where she had students in as many as five different grade levels in her classroom.

She loves watching her students’ faces brighten as they learn; she takes her job seriously. “Teaching is hard work. A lot of preparation and planning goes into designing a really effective lesson,” Delise said. “It goes beyond copying worksheets and passing out textbooks. Teachers have to think about what students will think about during the lesson: What will confuse them? What do they already know? How can I teach and not just tell? How can I scaffold enough to guide students without impeding their thinking?”

Delise said her participation in Math in the Middle helped her understand mathematics more deeply. “I am better able to build understanding with my students because I know more about the topic myself.”

The institute’s action research project also benefited Delise. “Reading current research and then actually doing an action research project in my own classroom forced me to better develop my teaching practices.”

She said she is humbled by the award. “The truth is, I am the teacher I am today because I’ve had the opportunity to work with and learn from some of the very best teachers out there. Just about every instructional decision I make is influenced by what I’ve learned from someone who knows more and does it better!”

Delise travels to Washington, D.C., in May to participate in the ceremony and accompanying activities.



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NU-Teach adds course in ESU 13

Connecting Geometry and Algebra Using Technology (one credit) will be offered from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 7 and 8 at the ESU 13 office in Scottsbluff. This hands-on workshop will explore the connections between geometry and algebra using a new (free) mathematics software called GeoGebra. The workshop is geared toward teachers in grades 4 to 12.

Other courses offered are:

Math 825T - Topics in Real Analysis for Secondary Math Teachers (3 cr.), taught by Dr. Gordon Woodward, 8 a.m. to noon, June 18-22 and June 25-29, UNL.

TEAC 880P - Instructional Technology for Secondary Math Teachers (3 cr.), taught by Dr. David Fowler, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., June 18-22 and June 25-29, UNL.

Math 800T - Math as a Second Language (3 cr.), taught by Dr. Cheryl Miner with ESU teachers Sandi Snyder and Virginia Clark, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 11-14 and June 25-28, Norris High School.

Math 802T - Functions, Algebra and Geometry (3 cr.), taught, in conjunction with Lincoln Public Schools, by Delise Andrews, Kristin Johnson and Dr. Jim Lewis, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 18-22 and June 25-29, Lux Middle School.

Math 808T - Concepts of Calculus for Middle Level Teachers (3 cr.) taught, in conjunction with LPS, by Dr. Michelle Homp and Sherry West, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., June 11-15, Lux Middle School.

For more information on the courses or to read about the science and computer education courses, visit the NU-Teach Web site at:

http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/teachneb/nu_teach.shtml.

(continued next column)

To register or for more information contact Jason Cruise in the Office of Graduate Studies at 402-472-2845 or via e-mail at jasoncruise.graduate@unl.edu.

Housing and a meal plan are available for those who wish to stay on campus. Contact Sharon Penry for more information at 402-472-9312 or spenry2@unl.edu.

Parn receives Japan Fulbright Award

Laura Parn, a 5th-grade teacher at Elliott Elementary School in Lincoln received the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Award, a Fulbright sponsored by the Japanese government. In October, Laura will travel to Japan and will visit schools, administrators, school boards and families in Tokyo and the surrounding suburbs. She is a graduate of the first cohort of the Math in the Middle Institute.

Math in the Middle Summer Institute dates

Cohort 2: June 18-22, June 25-29, July 16-20

Cohort 3: June 25-29, July 16-20, July 23-27

Cohort 4: June 18-22, July 16-20, July 23-27

Summer graduation: 9:30 a.m., Saturday, August 18

Fall course dates:

Friday, Sept. 7, and Saturday, Sept. 8

Notes from NATM

Designed by webmaster Robert Christensen of Keya Paha Public Schools, the NATM Web site (<http://www.natmonline.org>) includes information on the fall 2007 conference, presenter forms, lesson plans and summer math educational opportunities.

Dates to remember:

June 8: Gab and Gather session, ESU 5, Beatrice. Breakfast meeting with algebra focus.

October 1: Fall conference, Holiday Inn Convention Center, Kearney. "See Math, Hear Math, Do Math: Making Math Meaningful." Dr. Markus Hohenwarter, creator of GeoGebra, will present the keynote address.



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