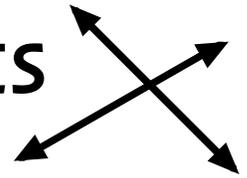


RC
ML

Intersection Points

"where research and practice meet"



The Newsletter of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning

Visit us on the Web at: www.unlv.edu/RCML

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The Research Council on Mathematics Learning seeks to stimulate, generate, coordinate, and disseminate research efforts designed to understand and/or influence factors that affect mathematics learning.

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Research Council on Mathematics Learning
Thirty-Third Annual Conference
Las Vegas, Nevada, February 23-25, 2006

Schedule of Events

For most up to date information, please visit the web site: <http://www.unlv.edu/RCML>

Thursday, Feb. 23

Noon - RCML Board Meeting at the Amerisuites Hotel
3:00 pm - Attendee Reception at the Mirage Hotel
3:30 pm - Wilson Lecture at the the Dolphin Habitat

Friday and Saturday sessions will be held at the International Gaming Institute on the campus of the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Friday, Feb. 24

8:00 am - Session I
9:00 am - Session II
10:00 am - Session III
11:00 am - Session IV
12:00 pm - Lunch and RCML Business Meeting
1:30 pm - Session V
2:30 pm - Session VI
3:20 pm - Break
3:45 pm - Keynote Lecture: Dr. Skip Fennell

Saturday, Feb. 25

8:30 am - Session VII
9:30 am - Session VIII
10:30 am - Session IX
11:30 am - Attendee Box Lunch
12:30 pm - RCML Board Meeting

RCML 2006 Conference Update

We have a very rich program with a wide variety of speakers planned for the annual conference this year. We hope you are as excited about coming and sharing your expertise and perspectives as we are. This year, we are also welcoming several first-time RCML presenters. A brief outline of the program in this issue of Intersection Points will give you a glimpse of the exciting opportunities that await you in Las Vegas! Also, below are some deadlines and information that will help you to prepare for your visit. Additional and most current information is available at the RCML Web site (www.unlv.edu/RCML).

A change from the last issue is that we have decided to save "Casino night at RCML" for another time. Dr. Charlie Kotulski of UNLV has arranged for us to receive a special tour at the Dolphin Habitat at the Mirage Hotel. The Wilson Lecture, "Teaching and Learning in the Dolphin World," will take place at the Dolphin Habitat. Admission will be free to all RCML registrants. The RCML reception begins there at 3:00pm on Thursday, with the tour beginning at 3:30pm. Two shuttle vans will run from the host hotel, the AmeriSuites, to the Mirage on Thursday afternoon between 2:30-3:30. Taxis will, of course, also be available.

Our keynote speaker on Friday will be **Skip Fennell, president-elect of NCTM**. Long-time members of RCML will remember Skip from the early days of RCDPM and RCML. He will speak on "What it REALLY means to be a highly qualified teacher."

Deadlines:

Registration for the conference: Feb. 15th

Papers submitted for consideration for an award: February 3rd
(contact David Davison at ddavison@msubillings.edu for more information)

For more conference information, contact

Jeff Shih at jshih@unlv.nevada.edu or

Ginny Usnick at vusnick@unlv.nevada.edu

The host hotel will be the AmeriSuites Hotel located at 4520 Paradise Road (702-369-3366). This property is on the western border of the UNLV campus (one block away from the Hard Rock Hotel).

As with many smaller conferences, it is best to make your reservation directly with the hotel rather than through a toll-free number or website.

The hotel has a very limited number of rooms available at the conference rate. First come, first served. After that, rooms may be available at an increased rate.

For information purposes, the direct hotel URL is:

<<http://www.amerisuites.com/reservations/locationdetail.asp?facid=4032>>

– Jeff Shih

Election Results (2006-2008/09)

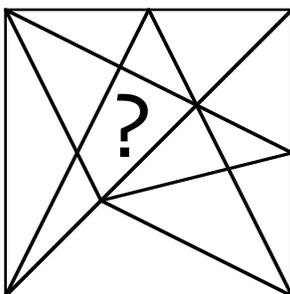
Congratulations to our new officers, and a big thank you to both our old AND new officers! RCML wouldn't exist with the efforts of our dedicated volunteer team. Be sure to say hello in Las Vegas next month!

President Elect:	Pat Lamphere-Jordan
Vice President of Conferences:	David Boliver
Treasurer:	Dixie Metheny
Conference Committee Position 1:	Stacy Reeder
Conference Committee Position 2:	Keith Adolphson

Read their biographies online: www.unlv.edu/RCML

Points of Puzzlement

by Michael Naylor



A CUTE WAY TO CUT A SQUARE

Is it possible to cut up a square into acute triangles? After trying for a few minutes, you may be convinced it can't be done, but it can. What the fewest number of triangles required?

Email your solution to mnaylor@cc.wvu.edu. Best solutions win valuable intrinsic rewards.

Last issue's puzzle: **HOCKEY PUCK MIND EXPERIMENT** remains unsolved! It's a delightful problem to wrestle with and worth revisiting. When you do reread it, you may find it helpful to think of a malicious deceiver who spins the table so that the two pocket you select are the least helpful. Can you outwit the demon? Here's the puzzle again.

Imagine a circular table which can spin in place. 4 pockets are equally spaced around the edge, and in each pocket there is a hockey puck which is white on one side and black on the other. You can't see the hockey pucks but they're either white side up or black side up, and you'd like to flip them so they all have the same color facing up.

You may reach into two pockets at the same time and pull out two pucks, look at them, flip them however you like, and then return them to their pockets. Now here's the catch: the table is spun, and you now you don't know which pockets are which. Once again you can choose two pockets, pull out two pucks at the same time, set them either side up, and the table is again spun. The game ends when all four pucks are either all white- or all black-side up.

Is it possible to guarantee a solution in a finite number of turns, or is might it be that if you were terribly unlucky you might never succeed?

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