



# Wahpe Woyaka pi ( Talking Leaf )

South Dakota Council Teachers of Mathematics Newsletter

## Presidential Ponderings

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual SDCTM/SDSTA joint conference is fast approaching. It will held in Huron February 2-4. There are over 100 sessions scheduled covering a variety of topics and grade levels. The conference is a valuable tool for all teachers, from “rookies” to “seasoned veterans”. The conference sessions are always instructive and helpful for the classroom, but the interactions with other professionals are just as instructive and helpful. One of the sessions that I’m sure will be very interesting is “*Demos at Your Own Risk*” with Larry Browning and Matt Miller. The description of the session – “Last year we melted the carpet. Come this year and see what we can melt.”



One of the hot topics for discussion this year will certainly be the Common Core State Standards. In addition to sessions dealing with the new standards, many of the vendors will be more than willing to discuss ways they can help you implement the new standards. If you haven’t already done so, I would encourage you to register for the conference and attend as many sessions as your schedule will allow. The conference program and registration information is available online at <http://www.sdctm.org>. I would encourage first year teachers to take advantage of the Goehring-Vietz Scholarship for free conference registration. Additional information concerning the scholarship is available at the SDCTM website.

The math featured speakers include Dr. Lesa Covington Clarkson from the University of Minnesota for grades K-8 and Robert Stack from Chadron State College for grades 9-12. The speaker at Friday evening’s banquet is Jon Richards from the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California. SETI is an acronym for “Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence.” Jon’s topic for the banquet is: “Is There Life in Outer Space.”

The conference will begin Thursday evening with a math sharing session. Bring 30 copies of your favorite math activity to share with your colleagues. You are welcome to attend the sharing session even if you don’t have any activities to share. It’s always enjoyable to hear what other teachers are doing in their classrooms.

The annual SDCTM business meeting is scheduled for Friday afternoon at 4:30. According to the constitution, the purpose of SDCTM “shall be to encourage and maintain an active interest in and appreciation of mathematics, promote growth, to provide a forum for exchange of the views regarding the teaching of mathematics, and to promote cooperative study of mathematics education at all levels.” The executive board is always interested in considering ideas that will help our organization fulfill its purpose. Please plan to attend the business meeting and participate in the discussions. If you have any items of business that should be on the meeting agenda, please send me an email by Friday, January 27. [jay.berglund@k12.sd.us](mailto:jay.berglund@k12.sd.us)

I wish you the best for this New Year and hope to see you in Huron.

Jay Berglund  
SDCTM President

WINTER 2012

## Wahpe Woyaka pi

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### Calendar Notes:

- *SDCTM/SDSTA Joint Conference*  
February 2-4, 2012
- *PAEMST Applications*  
due May 1, 2012



*‘...you’ll need to know math if you want the best chance to get a top-paying job in a field with a low unemployment rate!’*

## When Will I Ever Need To Know Math??

I’m going to go out on a limb and guessing that everybody reading this article has heard some version of the “When will I ever need to know math?” question. Thanks to the U.S. Census Bureau and PayScale.com, we now have an excellent answer: you’ll need to know math if you want the best chance to get a top-paying job in a field with a low unemployment rate!

Payscale.com’s analysts worked with data from the 2010 U.S. Census to determine which college degrees lead to the best paying careers, and which lead to the careers with the lowest unemployment rates. Their most striking finding was that every single one of the top twenty highest paying college degrees in 2011 required substantial amounts of advanced math! Here are the top twenty careers along with their associated mid-career median salaries:

Aerospace engineering	\$102,000
Applied mathematics	\$98,600
Biomedical engineering	\$97,800
Chemical engineering	\$109,000
Civil engineering	\$90,200
Computer engineering	\$101,000
Economics	\$94,700
Electrical engineering	\$103,000
Environmental engineering	\$88,600
Finance	\$87,300
Industrial engineering	\$93,100
Management Information Systems	\$88,200
Material science & engineering	\$103,000
Mathematics	\$89,900
Mechanical engineering	\$94,500
Nuclear engineering	\$97,800
Petroleum engineering	\$155,000
Physics	\$101,000
Software engineering	\$87,800
Statistics	\$93,800

Of course, high pay means nothing if you can’t get a job in the first place. That’s where the news gets even better. Many of the same college majors that lead to the twenty highest salaries are also associated with the lowest rates of



unemployment. For example, the unemployment rates associated with some of these careers are:

Civil engineering	4.90%
Electrical engineering	5%
Environmental science	5%
Finance	4.50%
Math/computer science	3.50%
Mechanical engineering	3.80%
Physics	4.50%
Statistics	4.20%

*“...unemployment has hovered around 9% or worse for years...”*

Next time somebody asks you when they’ll ever need to know math, roll out some of this data. I’ve found that at a time when overall unemployment has hovered around 9% or worse for years and more people are feeling financially pinched every day, it really gets peoples’ attention!

Kurt Cogswell, PhD  
Professor and Head  
SDSU Department of Mathematics and Statistics



## Share the Classroom Treasures

“Sharing” the treasures has been quite popular at the SDCTM/SDSTA Conference. As you sort through your treasures and organize your life...don’t forget about the conference. Start a “save it for the conference” box and plan to bring all your “extras” to the *Share the Classroom Treasures*.



*PLEASE - No Textbooks or broken/non-working equipment. Although it may feel like yours, make sure it is. If it's marked "School Property", please leave it in school.*





## Sources/websites for creating presentations:

It's that time of year that we are all looking for ways to enhance what we do in the classroom. Prezi and Animoto are on-line sources that offer alternatives to overhead transparencies or Powerpoints slide shows.

### [www.prezi.com](http://www.prezi.com)

- \* Click on sign up in the upper right hand corner.
- \* Click on the "go" button in the gold box (Teacher and Student Licenses) in the lower left corner of the new page.
- \* Click on the "get" button at the bottom of the "EduEnjoy" column. As a teacher you will get the "mid-range" license for free.
- \* Key in your school e-mail account.
- \* Prezi will send you a verification e-mail. You will need to check your e-mail and follow the link they send you.
- \* You will be asked for your first and last names and a password.
- \* You should be able to start your first Prezi today.
- \* You can include You-Tube videos, graphics and pictures.
- \* You can go back and edit a prezi at a later date.

### [www.animoto.com](http://www.animoto.com)

- \* The "basic" subscription level is free but it will take as long as a week to get your account set up.
- \* You will want to have several pictures/photos selected to upload.
- \* You can add slides with text (SHORT phrases or headlines).
- \* There are several musical selections available to choose from or you can upload your own music.
- \* Once you have finished your video, it will take a little to for Animoto to create it. They will send you a link when your video is finished. It is possible to edit a video if you aren't completely happy with it



## Nominations for 2012 PAEMST

**Know a Great K-6 Math Teacher? Nominate him or her to receive the Presidential Teaching Award!**

We're looking for outstanding K-6 math teachers for the 2012 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The awards are sponsored by the White House and administered by the National Science Foundation.

**Every year up to 108 National Awardees each receive** a \$10,000 award, a paid trip for two to Washington, DC to attend a week-long series of networking opportunities and recognition events, and a special citation signed by the President of the United States.

The program is now accepting nominations of K-6 teacher for the nation's highest honor for mathematics and science teachers. Anyone can nominate a teacher. Teachers should submit completed application materials by May, 2012. **For more** information, including nomination and application forms, please visit [www.nsf.gov/pa](http://www.nsf.gov/pa) or [www.sdctm.org](http://www.sdctm.org) and **click on the awards link.**

*Diana McCann*  
*SD Math PAEMST*  
*Math Coordinator*  
*diana@thecogahouse.com*

# 2012 SDCTM/SDSTA JOINT CONFERENCE

Crossroads Events Center, Huron South Dakota  
February 2-4, 2012 1-800-876-5858

Conference information and program booklets will be available online at [www.sdctm.org](http://www.sdctm.org) and [www.sdsta.org](http://www.sdsta.org)

## ADVANCE REGISTRATION --

Please print clearly. Postmark by January 20, 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
School/District \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate categories for membership, conference registration, and payment.

### 1. SDCTM/SDSTA MEMBERSHIP(s) and DUES

Please check the appropriate categories. You may join one, both, or neither organization.

<b>Begin/renew SDCTM (math) for one year</b>	<b>Begin/renew SDSTA (science) for one year</b>
_____ Elementary \$5	_____ Elementary \$5
_____ Middle School \$20	_____ Middle School \$20
_____ High School \$20	_____ High School \$20
_____ Post-Secondary \$20	_____ Post-Secondary \$20
_____ Student \$5	_____ Student \$5
_____ Retired \$5	_____ Retired \$5
_____ Other \$20	_____ Other \$20

### 2. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please check the appropriate categories. Noon luncheon is included for each day that you register.  
**NOTE: The Friday night banquet is NOT included. Banquet tickets may be purchased for \$20 each.**

I will attend the conference on (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Both days

<b>SDCTM or SDSTA Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>	<b>Student Member</b>
_____ One day \$50	_____ One day \$100	_____ One day \$15
_____ Two days \$75	_____ Two days \$125	_____ Two days \$25

College credit will be available; information/registration available at the conference registration table.

### 3. PAYMENT

Make checks payable to SDCTM.  
Purchase orders will NOT be accepted.

Membership(s) total \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday Night Banquet (\$20 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Requests for refunds must be received by January 20, 2012

### 4. SEND THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT

Steve Caron  
907 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street School phone (605) 725-8208  
Aberdeen, SD 57401 Home phone (605) 226-2292

Email: [steve.caron@k12.sd.us](mailto:steve.caron@k12.sd.us)

Advance registration must be postmarked by **January 20, 2012**

Please check here if you have also submitted a speaker proposal form for the 2012 Conference.



Print a copy of this form. Mail with check payable to SDCTM to:

**Diana McCann**  
**31133 Bon Homme Road**  
**Tabor, SD 57063**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subjects or Grades Taught \_\_\_\_\_

Addresses

Home \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ School

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership categories (Check only one)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary School \$5.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Middle School / Junior High \$20.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ High School \$20.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Post Secondary \$20.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \$5.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Student \$5.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$20.00



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