
For Your Information

Kichoon Yang Named Next NCTM Executive Director

Kichoon Yang of Northwest Missouri State University has been named executive director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), effective July 1, 2009.

Yang is provost and professor at Northwest Missouri State, where he has been since 2005. He served as dean of the College of Natural Sciences and professor of mathematics at the University of Northern Iowa from 2001 through 2004. He was also a program director in the Division of Mathematical Sciences at the National Science Foundation for three years. Earlier in his career he served for twelve years on the mathematics faculty at Arkansas State University. Yang earned a B.S. in mathematics from the University of North Carolina and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis.

Yang will succeed Jim Rubillo, who has been NCTM executive director since 2001. Rubillo announced his retirement last year and will continue in the position until Yang begins on July 1, 2009.

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics is a public voice of mathematics education, providing vision, leadership, and professional development to support teachers in ensuring mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students. It has more than 100,000 members and 230 affiliates and is the world's largest organization dedicated to improving mathematics education from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

—From an NCTM announcement

Mathematics Film Receives Prize

The film *The Spell of the Poincaré Conjecture* has received the Pierre Gilles de Gennes Prize of the Pariscience International Science Film Festival. The film was directed by

Masahito Kasuga and produced by the Japanese television station NHK. The de Gennes Prize is awarded by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique for research and spreading of scientific knowledge through the uncommon scenario of a film. The prize carries a cash award of €3,000 (approximately US\$3,900).

—Allyn Jackson



Noticed

Article Hits the Headlines

"Math has helped place a man on the moon and has counted the genes in our DNA," writes Dan Vergano in the March 16, 2009, issue of *USA Today*. "But never mind all that. A mathematician says he has finally produced something that people really care about: a foolproof way to beat Sudoku puzzles." Vergano was referring to the *Notices* article "A pencil-and-paper algorithm for solving Sudoku puzzles", by J. F. Crook, which ran in the April 2009 issue. News of Crook's *Notices* piece circled the globe, with stories appearing through United Press International, as well as in the *Toronto Star*, the *Daily Mail*, and the *New York Daily News*. The algorithm presented in Crook's article is used intuitively by many Sudoku players, but the way Crook encapsulated it was of interest to many. Find out more about media coverage of this and other math-related stories through the "Math Digest", a monthly feature on the AMS website at <http://www.ams.org/mathmedia/mathdigest>.