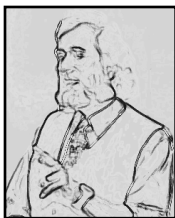


# NEWSLETTER

## James J. Kaput Center for Research and Innovation in Mathematics Education



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October 1st** - Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series, Maria L. Blanton, UMass Dartmouth, "*Algebra in the Elementary Grades*", 3.30-5pm
- **October 15th** - Famous Author Series On-Line Seminar, 1-2pm
- **November 3rd** - K-16 Regional Math Network Meeting, 12-3pm
- **November 12th** - Famous Author Series On-Line Seminar, 1-2pm
- **November 19th** - Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series, Guershon Harel, Univ. of California at San Diego, "*A DNR Perspective on Mathematics Curriculum & Instruction*", 3.30-5pm
- **November 20-21st** - *2nd Foundational Issues in Mathematical Education Symposium*
- **December 10th** - Famous Author Series On-Line Seminar, 1-2pm
- **December 17th** - Interdisciplinary Colloquium Series, Chris Dede & Rebecca Mitchell, Harvard Graduate School of Education, "*Mathematics Teachers' Adaptations of a Highly Novel Curriculum Based on Augmented Reality Technology*", 3.30-5pm

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

The mission of the Kaput Center is wide and deep. We are taking our first concrete steps to establish an infrastructure, both intellectual as well as physical, to address the foundational challenges in our mission.

As we continue to work locally with teachers and educators in the SouthCoast Massachusetts region, and both nationally and internationally with researchers and educators from a wide variety of cognizant areas that impact the interdisciplinary study of mathematical thinking, learning and teaching, I am excited that the Kaput Center is becoming an identifiable communion of like-minded people.

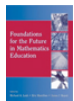
In this short period of time, we have obtained a major grant from the US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. We have hosted two international conferences with funding from the NSF—one focused on *Proof* and the other on *Foundational Issues in Mathematics Education*. We have also organized six colloquium talks with researchers from various fields, published several books and special journal issues, and released two new versions of SimCalc software as a commercial venture. In addition, it has been important for us to have undergraduate and graduate students work on our research projects through funding from the NSF's Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program, and offer graduate assistantships.

We are excited about the early planning stages for re-establishing a regional mathematics partnership between faculty, teachers and district leaders in the K-16 educational sector of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Finally, the Center looks forward to partnering with the new School of Education, Public Policy and Civic Engagement at UMass Dartmouth, in offering authentic learning experiences for the new PhD in Mathematics Education, which is planned to start in the Fall 2009. My best wishes to you,

Stephen Hegedus, PhD

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS



"*Foundations for the Future in Mathematics Education*," edited by Richard Lesh, Eric Hamilton & James Kaput, published in 2007 by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates



"*Algebra and the Elementary Classroom: Transforming Thinking, Transforming Practice*," written by Maria L. Blanton, published in 2008 by Heinemann



"*Algebra in the Early Grades*," edited by James J. Kaput, David W. Carraher, & Maria L. Blanton, published 2008 by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates



"*Democratizing Access to Mathematics Through Technology: Issues of Design, Theory and Implementation -- In Memory of Jim Kaput's Work*," a special issue of *Educational Studies in Mathematics*, edited by Stephen Hegedus & Richard Lesh, published in 2008, Vol. 68, Issue 2

## FAMOUS AUTHOR SERIES

The Famous Author Series is an on-line seminar that supports collaborative study of the works of famous authors. Individuals are able to participate through the WIMBA internet service provided by the University of Massachusetts. This past year, we discussed a variety of articles written by Jim Wertsch. You can listen to these discussions here: <http://tinyurl.com/5j4bec>

This year we will focus on the theme of *Participation, Identity and Identification in Mathematics Classrooms* by studying various authors who have written in this area. You will need an internet browser and a microphone or you can dial in. Initially, you will need to login here:

<http://horizon.umassonline.net>

and install the plugins. Click on "Participant Login" and enter your full name, then select "Kaput Center Room".

Please contact us for more details on calling in.

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INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM SERIES

The Colloquium Series features prominent speakers from interdisciplinary areas. In our first year, the following speakers offered thought-provoking speeches that can be found on-line at: <http://tinyurl.com/6au8sf>

Judah Schwartz, Tufts University. *Formulating Measures: A Step Toward Understanding Modeling in the K-12 Curriculum*

Bharath Sriraman, University of Montana. *Talent Development and Social Justice: Amicable Agendas or Conflicting Constructs.*

Susan Jo Russell, TERC. *Foundations of Algebra in the Elementary Grades*

Barbara Dougherty, University of Mississippi. *Generalizations in the Early Grades: Algebraic Structures for Young Children*

Nick Jackiw, KCP Technologies. *Perspectives on Dynamic Geometry.*

Luis Moreno-Armella, UMass Dartmouth/CINVESTAV. *From Symbolic Cognition to Digital Environments - a Long Term Perspective*

This Fall/Winter our talks will be available via webcast from <http://kaputcenter.umassd.edu>. Please visit our website to find out more information about the target population for these talks. We welcome you to join us at the Kaput Center if you are local or are visiting Massachusetts.

We also support informal talks at the Center. Please contact us if you wish to spend some part of your sabbatical here or wish to offer an informal seminar.

Noticeboard: Announcements  
and Requests

We are proud to announce two new SimCalc MathWorlds® products commercialized through the University of Massachusetts. Both include access to an on-line database of curriculum materials developed through research projects, professional development materials, and video tutorials for use within your institution. Focus: Middle and High School. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/64wls6>

We have completed our 1<sup>st</sup> year of a 4-year longitudinal efficacy study funded by the US Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences (a.\$2.2m) to develop and evaluate the impact of SimCalc resources and wireless connectivity (utilizing TI-Navigator™) on student learning and motivation throughout High School. Early results show a positive effect on learning. This year we will be in 30 Algebra 1 classrooms and 8 Algebra 2 classrooms in MA. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/5uj9oa>

*K-16 Regional Mathematics Network*

This newly formed Network is a coalition of school districts within Massachusetts and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. It promotes regional initiatives for the improvement of mathematics education and student achievement. Please contact us if you wish to join us at the next meeting. Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/5mdd39>

We are interested in forming a Massachusetts Parents' Symposium that brings together researchers, faculty, educational leaders and parents to work on new initiatives in our local schools. If you are interested in this idea please contact us.

If you are an educational leader interested in partnering on a research project in your school or district both locally, nationally, and internationally, please do not hesitate in contacting us. We have world-wide connections and are seeking to expand and establish these more.