

Campus. Connection

Mount Saint Vincent University

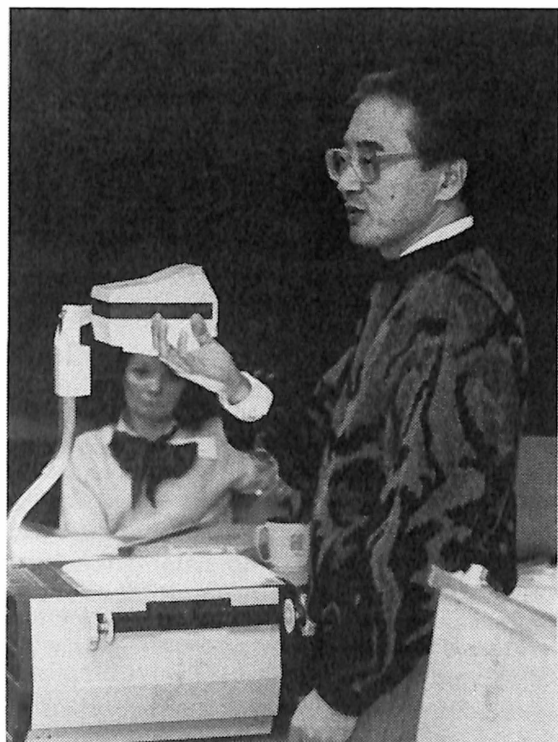
December 5, 1988

Math workshop explores alternative teaching system

Last summer, TIME magazine reported that the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress results gave mathematics education in the United States a "flunking grade." At a recent workshop at the Mount, Dr. Daiyo Sawada, a professor of elementary mathematics education at the University of Alberta, addressed similar problems in mathematics education in Canadian elementary schools, and offered an alternative.

Thirty elementary school teachers and curriculum consultants registered for the all-day workshop in elementary school mathematics led by Dr. Sawada. He challenged participants to re-examine the traditional method of teaching mathematics, which focuses, for example, on how to use the Base 10 numeration system, but not on an understanding of its underlying structure. Dr. Sawada offered as an alternative a teaching method that would encourage children to experience for themselves the process of developing their own "codes", or numeration systems prior to being taught the Base 10 system. In the process, they would develop an understanding of why the Base 10 structure is used.

The workshop, and the public lecture the night before, were sponsored by the Mount's education department. Dr. Yvonne Pothier, education department faculty and workshop organizer, comments, "It was a very worthwhile event. Participants greatly appreciated the workshop and expressed a



Dr. Daiyo Sawada, a professor of elementary mathematics education at the University of Alberta, posed an alternative system of mathematics education at a recent Mount workshop.

commitment to continue discussions."

This was Dr. Sawada's second workshop at the Mount. His first was in the summer of 1986.

'Tis the season

The Mount's annual Ecumenical Candlelight Service will be held Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. in Our Lady of Wisdom Chapel, Evaristus Hall. Christmas dinner follows in the dining room, with carol singing on the way. Those not on meal plans may purchase tickets for Christmas dinner for \$5.50 from Ann Eade, Rosaria 212A. Non-meal plan tickets are limited to 100.

• • •

The Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship is sponsoring its annual Atlantic International Christmas Dec. 22-28, at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B. International students of all faiths and philosophies are invited to a home away from home for the holidays. Activities planned include a candlelight service, traditional Christmas meal, an international food night, sleigh rides, skating, and skiing. Tickets are \$95,

plus transportation (about \$20) provided from Halifax. Bursaries are available as needs require. For more information call Reverend Ruth Jefferson at ext. 349.

• • •

The Mount's annual seasonal hasty notes are now available at the bookstore and the art gallery. "Cyprus Moon", a watercolour by Nova Scotia artist Suezan Aikins, graces this year's notes, which are priced at \$7.50 for a package of 10, with envelopes. The notes contain no message, and are appropriate for Christmas and year-round.

• • •

This year's total from the Mount's Multiple Sclerosis Society Christmas cake sale is \$918. In all, 102 cakes were sold, almost tripling the number sold last year.

Senate committee set up to consider Fall Convocation

A committee has been appointed by the Senate to examine the feasibility of a Fall Convocation. The committee was established by the Senate executive following the Oct. 3 Senate meeting.

Glen Flemming, office administration department faculty and committee chair, says, "We're gathering information about the number of potential graduates and how many of them would be interested in a Fall Convocation - and balancing that against the costs involved, and the workload for

faculty, the public relations office, physical plant, etc."

The committee is looking for submissions now, and will be reporting to Senate in January with recommendations.

Other committee members include: faculty Dr. Olga Broomfield, English department, and Ronald Pearson, public relations department; Joan Ryan, acting co-ordinator of co-operative education; and students Cheryl MacKenzie and Cynthia McCutcheon.

Alumnae Award for Teaching Excellence

Students, alumnae and faculty are invited to nominate a full-time faculty member who has taught at least three academic years at the Mount, for the Alumnae Award for Teaching Excellence. You must submit two other names of students, alumnae or faculty who support your choice; explain why your

nominee should be considered; and return the form to the office of the Vice-President (Academic) by Jan. 17, 1989.

Nomination forms are available from: the offices of the Deans, Vice-President (Academic), alumnae and student council; the Seton front desk; and the *Picaro* office.



Cypress Moon, 1988, a 46 X 93 cm watercolour by Nova Scotia artist Suezan Aikins, from the Mount art gallery's permanent collection.

*Twins in the moon of winter time,
When all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim,
And wondering hunters heard
the hymn;
Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.*

- Jean de Brébeuf
1593-1649

It's always hard to describe something entirely new. In this Huron Christmas carol, Brébeuf tried to explain an extraordinary event using familiar words.

And every year, as we celebrate Christmas we are reminded that the Babe is the Word sent to explain God's extraordinary love for us in a way that helps us appreciate it, too.

May the love and peace and goodwill proclaimed at His birth be yours this Christmas and throughout 1989.

Naomi Derson

Christmas Daddies fundraising a big success

If giving unto others is what Christmas is all about, the recent Christmas Daddies fund raising effort can attest that the Christmas spirit is alive and well at the Mount. The campus was abuzz with activities - pub luncheons, baked goods sales, penny drives, raffles, 50/50 draws, and even a rock concert - aimed at raising money for needy children through the Christmas Daddies effort.

"Last year we had a good response from people on campus, but this year was even better. We were all really looking forward to the drive, and everyone seemed to get involved," says Linda MacLeod,

conference assistant and Rosaria Centre staff co-ordinator for the Christmas Daddies drive. Debbie Gladstone, alumnae records clerk, co-ordinated the combined Evaristus-Seton-Marywood effort.

Activities organized by staff raised \$1150.50, while the student effort - including an ocean dip off Point Pleasant Park - exceeded this year's \$2000 goal.

Franca Gatto, co-chairperson for the students' drive, comments, "Everyone accepts that the Christmas Daddies drive is a good cause, and has a good time supporting it. And in the process we help to build school spirit."

OF INTEREST OF INTEREST OF INTER

The Mount's health office reminds faculty, staff and students that all of us should be immunized at regular intervals. A combined absorbed vaccine for tetanus and diphtheria, known as Td, is recommended for adults at 10-year intervals. Influenza immunization is recommended for individuals aged 65 and over. Women of child-bearing age should know their rubella immunization status, which can be determined by a blood test. All immunizations are available from the health office. For more information call ext. 353, or visit the health office in Rosaria.

• • •

The Campus Ministry staff invites you to bring your lunch and join them for a cup of tea and videos on Monday, Dec. 5 and 12 at the former location of the Life Planning and Learning Centre next to Vinnie's Pub. "The Single Lifestyle" and "Co-habitation", two 15-minute videos, will be screened Dec. 5, with the 25-minute "Patricia's Moving Picture" featured Dec. 12.

• • •

December exams are scheduled for Friday, Dec. 9 to Saturday, Dec. 17. The Seton reception area will be staffed Friday nights, Dec. 9 and 16, until 10 p.m. The Evaristus switchboard will remain open on both nights until 12 midnight. Telephone reception at Evaristus will be maintained until the closing of residences on Sunday, Dec. 18.

• • •

A psychologist at the University of Regina is undertaking a study of Working Women in Academic Settings. The three-year study, by Dr. Connie Stark-Adamec, head of the university's psychology department, will examine occupational and non-occupational stresses, time management, self-esteem and self-confidence. In addition to providing a significant psychological model, Dr. Stark-

Adamec says her study may "include implications for policy change within academic institutions."



Wai Ling (Cheryl) Leong, right, a Saint Mary's University commerce student, and Mount faculty member Carole Hartzman, were among the guests at a recent Host Family Association gathering held at Dalhousie University.

The Host Family program brings together international students with local families, as a support for students adjusting to Canadian life. The host family, in turn, has a rare opportunity to learn about other countries and cultures. The Mount has a substantial number of both students and hosts participating in the program.

Campus Connection is published weekly by the Public Relations Office, Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 2J6. Copy should be submitted to Room 205, Evaristus Hall, by Monday noon one week before Monday of publication. Editor: Charmaine Gaudet, 443-4450, ext. 339.