

Spring 2006 teaching Conference | January 24, 2006 | Session Notes

Panel Discussion: The Art in Math, The Math in Art

Presenters: Mark Reynolds, Mike Fleming and Joan Bergholt

Facilitator: Bob McDonald

Bob McDonald | Director of English as a Second Language

Introduced the speakers & then topic; shared that he has always had a good relationship with math. He attributes this to betting on football games and being the organizer of street-games when he was growing up.

Mark Reynolds | Graphic Design Instructor

Illustrated how amazing, human, natural, practical & philosophical math can be. He explained the theme of the golden section and how it is a natural part of nature; how humans then reflect & replicate the golden section consciously and otherwise, all of the time. This especially applies to music and art -- architecture, sculpture, design, and paintings. He used the example of the human body being a golden section, as well as the water bottles that were given away at the conference, a Norman Rockwell painting, and how rabbits breed.

Mike Fleming | MPT Editing Instructor

Stressed the need to meet students where they are with math & their relationship to it. Find what the students goals are and show them the math they'll need to succeed. If the student wants to make a 'spinning box' they need to know the math to do that. He also used the example of "time code" which is just like street addresses -- every frame in the film has an address, just like every house on a street -- as a way to meet students where they are, with they're basic math functioning/understanding.

Joanne Bergholt | Director of Fashion Merchandising

Gave a very practical and business-oriented angle to math: if you can't quantify your fashion, whether developing, designing, buying, manufacturing -- if you can't quantify it you will not be successful. period. She also said how the fashion department approaches math differently for the different levels of the students -- for freshman things are more concrete with visual examples, but by the graduate level it's more conceptual.