



KICK OFF EVENT

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December 5th, 2003

Nearly 140 guests attended a Colloquium and Reception on December 5th 2003. Bob Devaney of Boston University presented the first colloquium. Among the honored guests at the reception were from Boston University, President Aram Chobanian, Provost Dennis Berkey, and the Deans from the School of Education and the school of Arts & Sciences. All members of the Partnership were represented at this successful gala event.

As part of the Dynamical Systems and Technology project, Bob Devaney developed a colloquium for use in exploring the topics of chaos and fractals. The colloquium included several JAVA Applets for use in the classroom and Bob Devaney demonstrated their use and students reactions to them.

This was the first Colloquium for the partnership. The next is tentatively planned for June 10th, 2004. Information on the Applets section of the colloquium can be found at the following: math.bu.edu/DYSYS/applets/

All members of the Partnership were represented at this successful gala event and some of the honored guests spoke showing their support and appreciation for the partnership. The President of Boston University, Aram Chobanian had this to say during his comments, "Focus on Mathematics" is a promising initiative to let children learn mathematics so that throughout their lives their understanding of the world will be informed by one of humanity's greatest intellectual achievements, one which is accessible to anyone with a pencil and a sheet of paper".

Dennis Berkey, Provost at Boston university shared his thoughts as well, "The University is proud to have a Department of Mathematics so deeply and effectively committed to excellence in teaching, and we look forward to developing this important partnership with these public schools and the EDC centering on a shared passion for mathematics, as ideas and ways of thought."

As for the future that the kick off event predicted Wayne Harvey, of EDC had this to say, "So in five or six years when other universities and other school systems are asking us, "how were you able to get so many kids thinking so deeply about real mathematical ideas" I'm sure part of my answer will be, "we worked on creating a culture in which teachers and mathematicians and administrators and researchers could focus on mathematics interdependently, not independently. And we worked with institutions that were adaptable to make this possible. They found ways to allow and encourage their talents to become part of a community of expertise. And we were able to build such a community because we had amazing talents like Glenn Stevens at BU and Al Cuoco at EDC and school district leaders who had vision and courage!"

