



# MASS ACADEMY MATTERS

NEWS FROM THE MASS ACADEMY OF MATH AND SCIENCE AT WPI

## MASS ACADEMY MASTER TEACHERS

As part of the Mass Academy Mission, the master teachers of the Academy do outreach and present at the state and national level, sharing their expertise with other professionals. This past weekend, Ms. Wildfong, Ms. Lang, and Dr. Sumner as well as Ms. Bonneau were on the road from Sturbridge, MA to Austin, TX.

Ms. Julia Nasrani-Wildfong discussed the value of authentic assessment in foreign language classes and the importance of student revisions using feedback at the MAFLA conference in Sturbridge, MA. Podcasting was presented as one effective way of creating meaningful language, using higher order thinking skills, and facilitating student revision. The session included ideas on incorporating authentic assessment into the classroom as well as a demonstration on how to make a podcast. Each participant left with a link to an online step by step tutorial made by Julia using Camtasia Studio®.

Dr. Judith Sumner presented a two-hour workshop on strategies for teaching science writing at the recent NCSSMST meeting in Austin, TX. She shared the complete curriculum of the

Scientific and Technical Writing (STW) course that she developed at Mass Academy, from the major research paper to science essays and collaborative book-writing. Several other schools are planning to implement similar technical writing programs and are looking to Mass Academy for guidance.

Ms. Karen Lang, computer science teacher, presented a workshop at NCSSMST in Austin about the Academy's long term engineering project which is a real-world application that involves working in teams. Students research, design, and build an assistive device to help a disabled client in their community.

The workshop gave details on an engineering program that has been successfully implemented for the past five years at Mass Academy. The program engages students in a real-world engineering problem where they have to apply research, math, and scientific skills to arrive at a solution that works. The program is a win-win for the community, the school, and the students. Attendees learned the logistics of running such a program, the benefits, the pitfalls, and the cost.



## MATH TEAM MEMBERS EARN WPI SCHOLARSHIPS

During vacation week, the Mass Academy Math team placed fourth out of 89 teams in the 24th annual WPI Mathematics meet held on campus during our October break. Based on their scores, Anish Athalye and Dhroova Aiyilam (photo above with Math Team Advisor Mr. Regele) were awarded \$3000 scholarships to WPI should they choose to attend. They were presented with the awards at Monday meeting. Seniors Amy Rockwood and Conor Pappas were presented \$750 scholarship awards for their performance at the meet as well. Congratulations to our students and the team. Well done!!

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

*Imagination is more important than knowledge*

*-Albert Einstein*

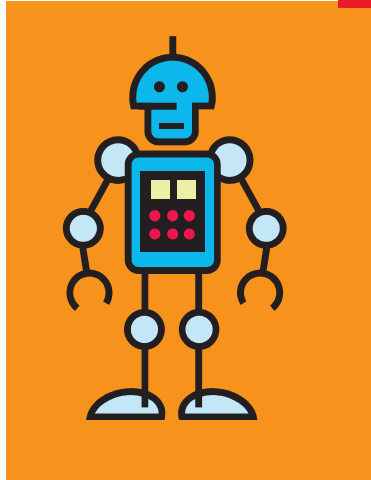


### WPI PROFESSOR KICKS OFF MASS ACADEMY LECTURE SERIES

On Thursday, November 4, a dozen local educators were treated to a stimulating lecture titled "Laws, Identities, and Loops: Hello Robot!", delivered by Taşkın Padir, an Assistant Professor of Robotics Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He has been teaching robotics to all ages for more than 10 years. He is the recipient of the 2011 Romeo Moruzzi Young Faculty Award for Innovation in Undergraduate Education for his key role in developing the unified sequence of courses at the core of WPI's innovative Robotics Engineering program.

The talk was about the math and science of robotics, the integration of sensing, computing and actuation. Highlights included how a robot evolves from a ratio, a trig identity and a computer program. No prior knowledge of robotics was needed. Enthusiasm and curiosity about robots were essential and certainly evident in the audience. The lecture focused on application of skills and concepts as keys to learning.

Special thanks to Jackie Bonneau for her coordination of this inaugural event and to Dr. Padir for making this a successful and engaging evening. Watch the Mass Academy website for updates about the next lecture in the series.



### DIRECTOR HOSTS VISITS

Mr. Barney hosted two visits over the last two weeks, one from Mr. Shinsuke Sato, a government official in Japan, working for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and a second from Mr. Wes Chapman, a science teacher from Nauset Regional High School in Massachusetts, investigating the instructional models of Mass Academy. As a professional development center, the Academy embraces innovation and welcomes visitors in order to share ideas in order to improve instruction for the advancement of STEM education.



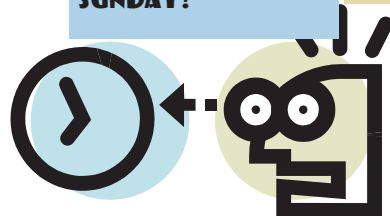
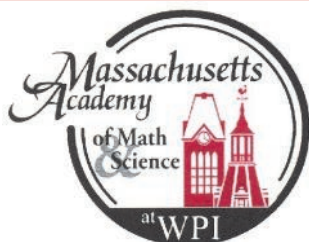
### COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNER SUPPORT FOR MASS ACADEMY

There is tremendous support for the students of Mass Academy in our community from local professionals, from both a financial aspect as well as in mentoring relationships. MBI is a proud supporter of the WPI Math Science Academy. Shown are Christopher M. Palatucci, Ph.D., Partner and Kevin O'Sullivan, President & CEO of Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI) presenting a check from a recent golf tournament to Director Michael Barney to support programs at the Academy. MBI has helped as a networking resource to assist students in their STEM (Science Technology Math and Engineering) project work. Thanks to Chris, Kevin and everyone at MBI for their support!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- TUE NOV 8 SCHOOL COUNCIL 4 PM BRICKYARD  
PSG 5 PM BRICKYARD
- WED NOV 9 HALF DAY
- THU NOV 10 TEAM 190 PARENT MEET POT LUCK
- FRI NOV 11 HALF DAY PARENT CONFERENCES
- WED NOV 16 FULL DAY PARENT CONFERENCES
- TEACHER APPRECIATION LUNCH 12-3

**DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR ON SUNDAY!**



### THANK YOUs

Thanks to Ms. Reardon for all her efforts in organizing our teacher appreciation luncheon, and to the ongoing efforts of our Parent Support Group!!!