

## Welcome Daniel McGee, KCM Executive Director



The KCM is pleased to welcome Dr. Daniel McGee as the new Executive Director, a role he officially stepped into on July 1, 2013. Dr. McGee is an applied mathematician with a profound interest in modeling and improving mathematics education. In addition to being a college professor, he has been a middle school teacher and a high school teacher.

Dr. McGee comes to the Kentucky Center for Mathematics from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, where his developmental materials were adopted by all 11 campuses of the UPR. Furthermore, the Puerto Rico Department of Education commissioned him to design educational materials to form the basis for Pre-Calculus instruction throughout the state.

Prior to his tenure in Puerto Rico, Dr. McGee's professional life involved him in multiple projects both in the United States and abroad. He taught mathematics at the University of Arizona; participated in the Calculus Consortium of Harvard University; served in the United States Peace Corps as a volunteer in the Mater Spei Secondary School in Francistown, Botswana; worked as an industrial systems engineer; and worked with statistical and database programming at the Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. McGee is eager to "continue the mission of the KCM to help evolve perspectives so that all Kentuckians see mathematics as the language of the physical world and all students wish to be fluent in it." Dr. McGee recognizes that the KCM is already having a profound impact in numerous areas. However, he also feels that this is a pivotal time for the KCM to hear from those who can identify further needs for improving mathematics education.

Dr. McGee is interested in expanding the KCM's research arm, particularly through analyzing substantial amounts of longitudinal student data to identify need and model different intervention strategies that maximize student achievement. These analyses will guide the work of the KCM as it supports the entire Commonwealth.

"The KCM belongs wherever it can help promote the learning and culture of mathematics in the state of Kentucky. I hope we will always be finding new ways to reach out to Kentuckians and that they will trust and reach out to us. As this happens more and more, I believe that our mission will be continuously evolving," said Dr. McGee.

Dr. McGee's work with improving math education began as a middle school teacher in Francistown, Botswana. Using plants and bugs from the African bush or pieces of wood and rubber raided from storerooms or trash heaps; he constantly looked for visual and applied examples to provide meaning to mathematics. While teaching calculus in 3D at the University of Arizona, his walk to class caused passers-by to dodge bent up wire coat hangers and bouncing tennis balls that had fallen from his backpack as he continued his efforts for visualization into 3D. Since then, his work has become less improvised with the design, creation, and manufacture of physical as well as virtual manipulatives, but he has never forgotten that bugs and bent-up coat hangers work just fine.

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