

RMS 8th Grade Hosts Assembly For Rutgers Professor

On Friday, February 21st Rutgers computer science associate professor, Dr. Bahman Kalantari, came to Randolph Middle School to share his new computer program, which is used to create an art form that he named polynomiography, with the 8th grade students. Mrs. Altamura's Team 8-2 Algebra I class, who contacted him and set up the informative assembly, also hosted a reception before the assembly.

Mrs. Altamura's Algebra I class first learned about polynomiography through a newspaper article describing his computer program. From there they contacted him through his web site asking him if 8th graders would understand his program. They received a reply shortly after and decided to set up an assembly explaining the program for the 8th grade classes.

Dr. Bahman Kalantari graduated from high school in Iran, before coming to the United States. In 1975, Dr. Kalantari received a B.S. in Mathematics and Physics. He also received a M.S. in Mathematics, a M.S. in Operations Research, and a Ph.D. in computer science, from the University of Minnesota where he completed his graduate studies. He joined Rutgers in 1984, and has written more than 50 papers, most of which have been published in scientific journals. One of his polynomiographs, which was inspired by a

Persian rug, is shown on a Rutgers graduated catalog cover. Coincidentally, this picture will be used to design another rug for his home.

Polynomiography, according to Dr. Kalantari, is the midpoint between math and art. It is a very colorful picture that is produced by mathematical equations. The word polynomiography itself is a combination of the words



"polynomial" and "graphing." "Everyone can become a polynomiographer," says Dr. Kalantari. He believes polynomiography can be used as an art, for education, in scientific potentials, and even in commercials. "Just as a photograph is worth a thousand words," said Dr. Kalantari, "a polynomiograph is worth a dozen theorems."

During the assembly, Dr. Kalantari spoke to the entire 8th grade about his findings. He discussed the different variations of polynomiography; how to solve a polynomiograph; and how to make your own on software program designed especially for creating polynomiographs. This program will soon be available to the public. He ended his presentation by showing some of his own creations that can be viewed at www.polynomiography.com.