Introductions

- **Who Am I?**
  - Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Rowan College at Burlington County (NJ)
  - AMATYC Liaison to Mu Alpha Theta
  - Member of Mu Alpha Theta’s Governing Council
  - Former Mu Alpha Theta Chapter Sponsor at Rowan College at Burlington County
Introductions

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- Who Are You? *Please utilize the chat*
  1. At which institution do you teach/work
  2. Is your institution involved with Mu Alpha Theta?
  3. Does your institution have a Math Club?
  4. What would you like to get out of this Webinar?
Mu Alpha Theta

- Mu Alpha Theta, the National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society, was formed in 1957 at the University of Oklahoma. We are dedicated to inspiring a keen interest in mathematics, developing strong scholarship in the subject, and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school and two-year college students. Currently, more than 100,000 students are Mu Alpha Theta members at more than 2,420 schools in the United States and in 23 foreign countries.

- Mu Alpha Theta:
  - Provides a method for schools to recognize and encourage students who enjoy and excel in mathematics.
  - Organizes a national convention for students and teachers to participate in math-related events and interact with others from across the country.
  - Rewards outstanding extracurricular achievement by offering special awards, scholarships, and grants to students and their faculty advisers.
  - Provides mathematics competitions to participating members at their own school through the Log1 Contest, Rocket City Math League and the Mathematical Minutes Video Contest.
Benefits to Students

- Impacts on Learning
  - Collaborative Projects
  - Community Based Learning
  - Undergraduate Research

- Resume Builder
  - Leadership Experience
  - Competition Results
  - Scholarships, Grants, Awards
Benefits to Students

▪ Impacts on Learning
  ▪ Collaborative Projects*
  ▪ Community Based Learning*
  ▪ Undergraduate Research*

▪ Resume Builder
  ▪ Leadership Experience
  ▪ Competition Results
  ▪ Scholarships, Grants, Awards

* These are identified as *High Impact Educational Practices* by the American Association of Colleges and Universities (Kuh, 2008)
Benefits to Students

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  - Undergraduate Research

- Resume Builder
  - Leadership Experience*
  - Competition Results*
  - Scholarships, Grants, Awards*

* Employers rated students who had been involved in co-curricular activities as more hirable than those that are not involved at all (Center for the Study of Student Life, 2020)
Benefits to Institution

- Cultivates Relationships with Outside Organizations
- Prestige of an Honor Society
- Student Club Activity
- Alumni Relations
- Press Releases
- Offset expenditures with Mu Alpha Theta grants

Source: Rowan College at Burlington County
Benefits to Faculty Sponsors – Leadership
An Effective Community College Leader…

- ...embraces the mission, vision, and values of the community college, and acknowledges the significance of the institution’s past while charting for its future.

- ...supports student success across the institution, and embraces opportunities to improve access, retention, and success.

- ...understands the importance of personal relationships, personal philosophy, and management skills to creating a student-centered institution.

- ...understands and embraces the importance of championing community college ideals, understands how to mobilize stakeholders to take action on behalf of the college, and understands how to use all of the communications resources available with the college community.

- ...cultivates relationships across sectors that support the institution and advance the community college agenda

*American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Competencies for Community College Leaders, 3rd Edition (2018).*
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MU ALPHA THETA - History

- Founded in 1958 as a “high school and junior college mathematics club”
- Annual Mu Alpha Theta Conventions begin in 1968
- AMATYC becomes official partner organization in 2002
  - Other partner organizations include MAA, NCTM, SIAM

Logo images owned by their respective organizations
MU ALPHA THETA - Today

- Over 2000 Active High School Chapters
- About 70 Active Two-Year College Chapters
  - Clustered in several states: AL, DE, GA, MD, NJ, MS, TX
  - Many states have no two-year college chapters
- Contests, Grants, Scholarships, Awards!
- Annual 5-Day Summer National Convention:
  - 2022 Washington area, DC
  - 2023 Fayetteville, AR
  - 2024 Las Vegas, NV
  - 2025 Orlando, FL
A two-year college can petition for a chapter if they...

- Have at least three mathematics courses above the precalculus level.
- Have at least one full-time faculty whose primary teaching field is mathematics and who has completed an undergraduate mathematics major or its equivalent at an accredited college or university.

- The president of the college, or other chief administrative officer of the institution must approve the chartering of the chapter at the college.
MU ALPHA THETA – Student Eligibility

- A student may join Mu Alpha Theta if they...
  - Were a Mu Alpha Theta member in high school

OR

- Completed at least one mathematics course at or above the college algebra/precalculus level.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher in mathematics courses at or above the college algebra/precalculus level.
- Cost: $10 induction fee
Contests

- **Log1 Contest**: competition similar to National Convention contests.
  - Divisions: MU (calculus), ALPHA (precalculus), THETA (algebra/geometry)
  - FREE at home institution

- **Rocket City Math League**
  - Divisions: Discovery (college algebra and up). Lower divisions for H.S. students.
  - FREE at home institution

- **National Convention**
  - Many different contests throughout the week at all different levels
  - Travel support is available
National Convention

- Many different contests throughout the week at all different levels
- Need-Based Convention Scholarships are available
- One-time Chapter Convention Scholarships are available for first-time attendees.
National Convention

Video Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRmHgQGXAz8
Available Grants for Active Chapters/Students

- **Chapter Grants**
  - $1000 total per chapter to develop activities for members, other students, or the community.

- **Competition Grants**
  - Up to $500 per year per chapter for expenses related to non-MAT Competitions
    - Putnam, AMATYC Student Math League, SCUDEM, various state competitions.

- **Summer Grants**
  - Up to $2000 per student for expenses related to a summer activity or research expenses.

- **Classroom Teaching Grants**
  - $1500 For MAT alumni who are at the beginning of their teaching careers.
Available Scholarships/Awards for Active Students

- Two Year College Scholarship
  - $4,000 Scholarship
  - For members who advanced the mission of Mu Alpha Theta by not only excelling as a mathematics student, but by providing exemplary leadership and loyalty to their Mu Alpha Theta chapter, participating enthusiastically in local projects, and providing service in mathematics.

- Governor’s Leadership and Service Award
  - $5,000 Cash Prize OR Scholarship
  - For a graduating member for their outstanding leadership skills and exceptional service to their Mu Alpha Theta chapter.
What We Have Done at RCBC

- Chapter Grants
  - Guest Speakers: Xavier Johnson, Brooke Ogrodnik, Arthur Benjamin
  - Induction Events

Photos Credit: Rowan College at Burlington County
What We Have Done at RCBC

▪ External Events
  ▪ Mathemagician Event
  ▪ Local Organizers of the 2018 MAA-NJ / MATYCNJ Joint Conference

Source: Rowan College at Burlington County

Photo Credit: J. Weisbrod
What We Have Done at RCBC

- Competition Grants
  - AMATYC Math League
  - New Jersey Undergraduate Mathematics Competition

Photo Credit: J. Weisbrod

Photo Credit: J. Meola
Frequently Asked Questions

- In what activities can a chapter participate?
  - Guest speakers, movie nights, club trips, competitions, etc.
  - Students can be creative

- How do we get students involved?
  - Email blasts, posters, classroom announcements
  - Promoting “resume building” and “competitions” often works

- Who do I contact with questions from Mu Alpha Theta
  - National Office: info@mualphatheta.org
  - AMATYC Liaison (through 2023): jweisbrod@rcbc.edu

- How do I start a chapter? Next slides 😊
Frequently Asked Questions

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▪ How do I start a chapter? Next slides 😊

Anything else? Please post in the chat.
MU ALPHA THETA – How to Start a Chapter

1. Identify a faculty sponsor and a group of interested students.
2. Obtain support from the dean or department chair.
3. Submit New Chapter Petition.
   - [https://www.mualphatheta.org](https://www.mualphatheta.org) – click “Join”
MU ALPHA THETA: Future

- **Goals**
  - New chapters in new states
  - Collaboration among nearby community colleges
  - Increased community college participation at the national convention
  - Involvement in AMATYC Student Math League and Student Research League
Farewell!

Questions?

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Thank you for attending!