2015 AMATYC Annual Conference
EXPERIENCE NEW ORLEANS!
by Jeff Hughes, New Orleans Local Events Coordinator

As an exciting new year and semester roll in, make plans now to let the good times roll and attend AMATYC’s 2015 Conference in New Orleans. The conference will be held November 19-22 at the Sheraton Hotel, ideally located on historic Canal Street and only steps away from the Mississippi River and the French Quarter.

The conference theme is “Jazz It Up” and the sessions will be amazing! Talented presenters will help attendees discover ways to jazz up their mathematics classrooms and departments. After sessions and workshops, you can easily jazz it up in the city, a top destination in the world for nightlife. You will get down to business at the conference and then you will just get down!

Time in New Orleans isn’t kept in hours or days, but in meals. From Cajun and Creole to Soul and Contemporary French, award-winning chefs create food for your taste buds and nourishment for your soul. A culinary adventure that spans a wide array of cuisines lies ahead for you in the Big Easy.

New Orleans is a city with distinctively different neighborhoods. While there, you can immerse yourself in the eclectic culture of the Arts District, experience the historic architecture of the French Quarter, or enjoy time in the Central Business District. Countless architectural gems await you. By venturing into the Arts District, a vibrant community of galleries, you will experience why it has been called the SoHo of the South.

Be prepared for the music in New Orleans to move your soul. No other city loves music more and nowhere else does it occur more effortlessly or more joyously. Jazz was born here while Rhythm & Blues, Gospel, Cajun and Zydeco all express the rich melting pots that are the heritage of the city.

Are you ready to “Jazz It Up” and for the good times to roll? Attend AMATYC 2015 and experience New Orleans!
President’s Message

Reflections

Nancy Sattler
Terra CC
Fremont, OH

It is hard to believe that my first year as president of AMATYC is coming to a close. Throughout this year I have traveled to eleven different states and met many mathematics educators. It was an exciting year, highlighted by my trip to Nashville to attend the 40th Annual AMATYC Conference. There, I was able to recognize two very important people with Presidential Awards. It was a time to both meet with old friends and make new ones.

One friend that I have known for quite a while is Cheryl Cleaves. Cheryl has been a part of AMATYC for as long as I can remember. When I checked the AMATYC history, I found that she was secretary of the organization in 1985 as well as co-chairperson for the annual conference held in Memphis that year. She was secretary again in 1987 and was appointed the first conference coordinator in 1988. At the first Annual AMATYC Conference that I attended in 1991 in Seattle, Cheryl received a Presidential Award and in 1996 Cheryl received another Presidential Award.

She has been very active in the organization over the years. She assisted in the writing of AMATYC’s signature document, Standards for Curriculum and Pedagogical Reform in Two-Year College and Lower Division Mathematics, and joined other AMATYC members in an 18-month Strategic Planning Initiative funded by the Exxon Education Foundation which resulted in AMATYC’s strategic plan for 2000-2005. She was part of an ad hoc committee that created an endowment plan for Project ACCCESS which is beginning its 11th cohort. Cheryl attended the 8th International Congress on Mathematics Education in Seville, Spain joining six other AMATYC members including our newly appointed Executive Director Wanda Garner. When the AMATYC national office opened at State Technical Institute at Memphis in Tennessee, on September 1, 1993, Cheryl was appointed Executive Assistant to the AMATYC board. Her title later changed to Executive Director of Office Operations and then to Interim Executive Director. This summer, the board changed her title one last time to Executive Director Emerita. It was an extreme honor for me to present Cheryl with yet another Presidential Award at the conference to thank her for all of her years of service to AMATYC.

At the conference, I was fortunate to visit with 13 AMATYC past presidents: Herb Gross, Karl Smith, Dale Ewen, Marilyn Mays, Wanda Garner, Sadie Bragg, Susan Wood, Phil Mahler, Judy Ackerman, Kathy Mowers, Rikki Blair, Rob Farinelli, and Jim Roznowski. These past presidents traveled to Nashville to help AMATYC celebrate its 40th anniversary, and what a party we had! It was truly “Mathematics: Music to My Ears.”

It was an honor and a privilege to meet AMATYC’s founding president Herb Gross and his lovely wife Louise. I had heard stories about Herb and knew that his breakfast talk would be entertaining to our members. Herb became a pioneer in distance learning in 1959 when he taught a calculus course for high school students via Corning’s Educational Television Network. Although he retired in 2003, he continues to share his mathematical knowledge.

I recently read an email written to Herb by 26-year-old Akash Chandra who needed to brush up on basic mathematics before taking an entrance exam for an MBA program in India. He wrote to Herb, “I saw a comment you had left on one of your YouTube videos on differential equations that pointed to the AdjectiveNounMath.com lectures of yours on arithmetic and algebra. It’s no exaggeration to say that that was a turning point in my life! I downloaded all 12 modules of the Arithmetic course and watched one lecture every day over the course of a month. And having finished this course now, I have come to the conclusion that you are the greatest teacher of mathematics that ever lived!” He went on to say, “How patiently you guide us through every step of the process, smiling and sharing anecdotes and jokes, with the sole intention of helping students truly grasp the fundamental ideas of arithmetic and the place value system.”

Herb is a strong advocate of the community college system and he also makes it a point to keep up with technology. He believes that in the not-too-distant future, the face of education will change, and the old fashioned one room school house will be reinvented in terms of technology. Following the Saturday breakfast, I presented another Presidential Award, this time to Herb. The board voted to change the name of the Presidential Award to the Herb Gross Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Herb. It is only fitting that he would be the first recipient of the newly named award.

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IN MEMORY OF AMBER STEINMETZ
ONE OF AMATYC’S EARLY LEADERS

AMATYC lost a very special lady and colleague when Amber Steinmetz passed away on November 24, 2014, in Springfield, MO. She had planned to attend the 40th Anniversary celebration in Nashville, but as the date approached, her family informed us that because of health issues she would not be able to attend.

Amber started her leadership role in AMATYC as the co-chair of the Developmental Mathematics Committee in 1976 and was the Central Vice President in 1977 and 1978. In 1979 she became the Treasurer and was President-elect in 1981. As President-elect she directed the development of two important documents that are still used in guiding the business of the organization: the policy handbook and the comprehensive planning manual for conferences. Amber became President in 1983 and during her two-year term AMATYC received its first grant from the Sloan Foundation and the first summer institute was organized. The Mathematics Excellence (ME) Award was established and she presented the award to the first recipient, Phil Cheifetz. Amber completed her active leadership role as Past President from 1985-1987. Since that time she continued to keep in touch and participate on the Past Presidents’ Advisory Council and attend conferences when she could.

What did AMATYC mean to Amber? No one can say it better than Amber, herself. Her comments that were included in the AMATYC Reflections 1974–2000 published in November 2000 are printed here.

What does AMATYC mean to me? Tell you about it in one or two paragraphs? My first reaction was to say, “You have got to be kidding!” But let me try it.

The very first plane ride I ever took and the very first jet landing I ever made that scared me to death with all the noise occurred on my way to the first AMATYC conference in Chicago twenty-five years ago (1975). I shall never forget that meeting. We discussed the constitution, made plans for the future and joined with others to discuss areas we were interested in. Even though I was teaching three semesters of calculus at the time, my real interest was with the non-traditional student who had never learned mathematics. Little did I realize that when I volunteered to serve on the Developmental Mathematics Committee that I had just given away ten years of my life! What a ride!

AMATYC was (and is) the vehicle that helped dedicated teachers come to grips with this new college system, the Community College. AMATYC was not an accident that happened. It was planned. It struggled, not only in stating its goals, but in choosing its leaders. Mistakes were made, but the organization survived and grew and grew and grew. Most of us taught extra hours to obtain the money for traveling. Grants from an AMATYC Foundation to help with travel expenses were never dreamed of. We fought tooth and toenail to be recognized by the other mathematics organizations in our United States... to be a part of an international mathematics group was inconceivable! Our first letters to International Congress on Mathematics Education (ICME) were not received with great enthusiasm. Our first grant proposal to fund the first AMATYC Summer Institute was an all night endeavor but it was approved. AMATYC summer workshops were on their way. What does AMATYC mean to me? It means dear friends, yes, even today, that worked together for a cause they believed in. We have arrived and are respected in the mathematics community. Many of us have retired, but our friendships continue. I love you all and will continue to do so until the day I die.

Amber’s family has asked that memorial contributions be made to the Muscular Dystrophy Association (www.mda.org) or the AMATYC Foundation (www.amatyc.org). Permanent online condolences, stories, and photos may be shared at www.hhlohmeyer.com.
This year at the conference in Nashville, Tennessee, forty-eight AMATYC Project ACCCESS Fellows participated in a series of sessions and workshops filled with great ideas and inspiration. Special thanks go to the presenters: Michael Darrell*, Jessica Lickeri*, Vanessa Coffelt*, Jessica Bernards*, Mark DeSmet*, Christy Hediger*, Diana Hestwood, Anne Vance*, and April Ström (*ACCCESS Fellows). Additionally, thanks go to the many other ACCCESS Fellows who assisted with Project ACCCESS in various other ways including presiding over Project ACCCESS sessions and behind the scenes.

Cohort 10 Fellows kicked off the conference by presenting the results of the projects they worked on over the past year. Many of the ACCCESS Fellows also presented the results of their projects at the conference poster session. Cohort 11 Fellows will continue the ACCCESS tradition as they commence work on their projects to be presented at the 2015 AMATYC Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA.

If you, or a colleague, will be in the first three years of teaching full-time at a community college during the 2015-2016 academic year, please consider applying for Cohort 12 of the AMATYC Project ACCCESS that will meet for the first time at the 2015 AMATYC Annual Conference. Details about Project ACCCESS can be found on the AMATYC website by clicking on the Project ACCCESS logo or going to the Project ACCCESS website directly: www.amatyc.org/page/projectacccess.
Teaching Excellence

Teaching Excellence Corner
by Martha T. Goshaw,
2003 Teaching Excellence Award Recipient

Since the 2011 AMATYC Annual Conference in Austin, the Teaching Excellence (TE) Award winners have had an informal gathering at each conference. The purpose of these gatherings includes welcoming the newest class of awardees, making a donation on behalf of the TE winners to the AMATYC Foundation to support Project ACCCESS, and discussing ways that TE winners as a group can support AMATYC and its mission. In this issue, are some tips on working with students that have learning disabilities or other special needs. As several awardees noted, 99% of what is done to help students with learning disabilities actually helps the whole class!

Teaching Tip #19: To a student with a learning disability, nothing ever becomes “old.” Students with short term memory issues must continue to see important ideas over and over. In every homework assignment, give a few problems from earlier material, either from earlier sections in the chapter being studied or ‘really old’ material from previous chapters. At the beginning of each class post a problem on the board for students to work on when they first enter the classroom. Use problems from previous sections that will be pertinent to that day’s discussion. Where possible, use that problem as the starting point for the day’s material. (Louise Olshan, County College of Morris, TE 2007)

Teaching Tip #20: Writing on the white board with multiple colors can provide details to lecture notes that single colors cannot provide. Multiple colors allow professors to emphasize an important topic, classify notes, indicate changes from one example to the next, and make additions or revisions to earlier notes. Color coding can also be used when grading tests and assignments. However, some students are color blind or have difficulty reading certain colors. Because of this, it is important to ask students at the beginning of each class if there are certain colors that are difficult for them to read. Then an alternate color can be substituted for the problem color. (Jim Ham, Delta College, TE 2007; Jim Trefzger, Parkland College, 2003)

Teaching Tip #21: Things taken for granted when verbally explaining things on the board may not always be clear to the visually impaired student. Be sure to verbalize things clearly and require students to verbalize things clearly as well. Saying ‘notice the shape of the graph just drawn’ means nothing to a student who has trouble seeing it. Non-visualy impaired students will benefit as well from the additional thought required to ask meaningful questions that the entire class can understand. (Martha Goshaw, Seminole State College, TE 2003)

Teaching Tip #22: To encourage student engagement during a class meeting, having students work problems on the board is always a good idea. Students overwhelmingly enjoy the time working with peers, and they cite board work as one of the classroom activities that helps them to learn most. However, setting up for student board work can be tricky for students who have a physical handicap that does not permit the use of their hands or that requires the use of a motorized ambulatory device. To enable students with these challenges to participate in board work, simply ask that they station themselves in a location in the room where they can participate in board work with others. Sometimes this may involve a slight rearrangement of classroom furniture. (Jim Ham, Delta College, TE 2007)
Membership

AMATYC Institutional Dues Increase
by Margie Hobbs, Treasurer

Institutional Membership in AMATYC is available to any college, university, learning center, publisher, manufacturer, or similar entity that supports the purposes of the association. A representative of an institution must complete the proper forms and pay the established dues. The dues for Institutional Membership have remained the same since 2009. Effective January 1, 2015, and until June 30, 2015, the dues for Institutional Membership are $480. Institutional Membership dues for July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016, will be $495.

Institutional Membership in AMATYC includes the following benefits:

- Two complimentary job ads for faculty or administrative positions on the AMATYC website.
- Access to the AMATYC Leadership Database.
- One complimentary discount conference registration to the annual AMATYC conference.
- Receipt of AMATYC publications: MathAMATYC Educator (published three times per year), the AMATYC News (published four times per year), and position statements.
- Announcements about professional development opportunities for mathematics faculty teaching in the first two years of college, including institutes, workshops, and conferences.
- One complimentary membership in the AMATYC Student Mathematics League, a mathematics competition for two-year college students.

AMATYC makes it very easy to become an institutional member. You can join by contacting the AMATYC Office at 901.333.6243 or go to the AMATYC website at https://amatyc.org.

Did You Know . . . About Auto-Renew?

Would you like to not worry about when your membership expires? Then sign up for auto-renew! It’s easy! When you select the “renew my membership link” and click on the drop-down menu, you should see these options:

- Regular Individual - 1 year (with auto-renewal) − $85.00
- Regular Individual - 2 Years − $165.00
- Regular Individual - 3 Years − $240.00
- Lifetime − $1,700.00

This is an online renewal option in the drop-down menu for each member type – individual, adjunct or retired. It also applies to the multi-year option for individual members.

Your credit card information is safely stored and is charged when it’s time for your membership to renew. An email notification is sent to your email box when your card is charged and your AMATYC membership will be extended an additional year. If your card expires or is lost or stolen, the office receives an error notification; you will be notified by email to contact the office to provide a new credit card number.

So the next time you renew, consider selecting the auto-renewal option. If you have questions, contact the AMATYC Office at 901.333.6243 or amatyc@amatyc.org.

AMATYC Calendar of Events

Check the AMATYC website, www.amatyc.org, for information on conferences and meetings from other organizations.

February 19-21, 2015 TexMATYC/TCTTA Meeting, Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX. Website: www.texmatyc.org

February 20, 2015 AriaMATYC Meeting, Cochise College - Sierra Vista Campus, Sierra Vista, AZ. Website: www.azmatyc.org

February 27-28, 2015 41st Annual KYMATYC Conference, Lake Cumberland State Resort Parks, Jamestown, KY. Contact: Pat Riley, partic.riley@kctcs.edu. Website: www.kymatyc.org

March 13-14, 2015 CMC3 - South Spring “Super π” Conference, Anaheim, CA. Website: www.cmc3s.org

March 20-21, 2015 VMATYC Spring Conference, Tidewater CC - Virginia Beach Campus, Virginia Beach, VA. Website: www.vmatyc.org

March 27-28, 2015 NEMATYC Conference, Quinsigamond CC, Worcester, MA.

April 9-11, 2015 40th Annual IMACC Conference, Allerton Park, Monticello, IL. Contact: Connie McLean, mcleanc@blc.edu. Website: www.imacc.org

April 10, 2015 NEBMATYC 2015, Metropolitan CC, Omaha, NE. Contact: Steven Reller, sreeller@mcneb.edu. Website: www.northeast.edu/Organizations/NEBMATYC

April 10-11, 2015 OhioMATYC Spring Meeting, Punderson State Park, Newbury, OH. Contact: Tony Ponder, anthonyped@sinclair.edu.

April 17, 2015 MATYCONN Conference, Manchester CC, Manchester, CT.

April 17-18, 2015 19th Annual CMC3 Recreational Mathematics Conference, South Lake Tahoe, CA. Website: www.cmc3.org

April 17-19, 2015 48th NYSMATYC Annual Conference, Rochester, NY. Contact: Larry Danforth, ldanforth@sunyjefferson.edu. Website: www.nysmatyc.org

April 18-19, 2015 NMMATYC/MAA Joint Meeting, El Paso CC, El Paso, TX. Website: www.mm.matyc.org

April 23-25, 2015 29th Annual ORMATYC Conference, Inn at Spanish Head, Lincoln City, OR. Website: www.ormaty.org

April 30-May 2, 2015 WAMATYC Conference/47th Washington CC Mathematics Conference, Campbell’s Resort, Lake Chelan, WA. Website: www.wamatyc.org


May 29, 2015 MMATYC Conference, Frederick CC, Frederick, MD.

November 19-22, 2015 41st Annual AMATYC Conference, New Orleans, LA. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

A form is available at www.amatyc.org/?page=AffiliateConferences to update or add affiliate conference information.
A VISION FOR 2025
MS2025 - Mathematical Sciences in 2025
by Rob Kimball

The bad news is that as other disciplines increasingly use mathematics to expand their reach into lives as well as to improve the quality of life, there will be a shortage of STEM graduates to fill the jobs in those fields. It is important to note that not only is there a lack of interest in STEM fields among many students, there is also a lack of proficiency among American students. More attention and resources must be given to all of the most high-achieving students from across all groups.

Faculty who teach mathematics in two-year colleges, members of AMATYC, and everyone in the mathematics community must be integrally involved in discussions to modernize the curriculum as well as to attract additional STEM students. Faculty, especially those who make decisions about curriculum and content, must be aware of and attentive to these national trends and need for curricular redesign.

What can you do?

 ✓ Be sure to download the document from the internet (www.nap.edu/catalog/15269/the-mathematical-sciences-in-2025) and look for future articles (in the NEWS) and suggestions (from AMATYC) for how to begin and continue to dialog with your colleagues. The AMATYC leadership will be communicating more about next steps and how AMATYC can develop a leadership role in the development of the strategic plan for improving the undergraduate mathematics curriculum.

 ✓ In the meantime, check out the MS2025 document and familiarize yourself with other initiatives.

 ✓ Become a leader at your own college and inform your colleagues of these important documents and recommendations.

1The Mathematical Sciences in 2025, Committee on the Mathematical Sciences in 2025, Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications, National Research Council, Washington, DC, 2013

*Reflections, Continued from page 2*

While at the conference, I was able to attend the Affiliate President Luncheon and make some new friends. I was pleased to award the first ever Student Presidential Scholarship to Randi Reed from Everett CC in Washington State. Randi was nominated by Christopher Quarles. Randi will receive a $1,000 check to be used to further her education. Ten affiliates had nominees for the student scholarship and Randi was randomly selected from the ten nominees. Next year it is my hope that we will have 44 nominees for the Student Presidential Scholarship.

A special thank you to the Conference Committee: Keven Dockter (an old friend), Local Events Coordinator, Tim Britt (a new friend), and their committees as well as the AMATYC office staff, the AMATYC board and all of you who attended the conference. If you were unable to attend our 40th anniversary conference, I hope that you will visit the conference proceedings page at www.amatyc.org/?page=2014ConfProceedings.

This year has been a busy one for me and I look forward to another year as your president. I hope to continue to make new friends and meet with old friends and I hope that you do too!
Wow! The best way to describe the 40th Annual AMATYC Conference in Nashville, TN, is truly “Music to My Ears!” Over 1,400 members and guests were wowed by the beauty and grandeur of the Gaylord Opryland and its elaborate Christmas decorations. Soon after arriving everyone was acclimated to the venue and was able to find everything they needed from food to shopping to just relaxing and getting ready for the conference to begin. Keven Dockter, along with the other conference committee members, did an outstanding job planning the conference. Keven and the team worked tirelessly many weeks before the conference to make this event run as smoothly as possible. Judy Williams, program coordinator, organized an excellent program with topics to fascinate any interest at any level.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Local Events Committee convened and had a wonderful time stuffing the conference bags and getting them ready for the attendees. Everything was almost ready! The plans had been made, the materials had arrived, and everything was falling in place!

On Wednesday afternoon, many attendees lined up waiting to register and get their materials for the conference. Everyone quickly searched for the best sessions, the exhibit hours, and other pertinent information. The local events committee (LEC) were dressed in their blue shirts and were ready to begin helping everyone find their desired locations, locate food opportunities, or just chat a while. Many spent the rest of the day at the nearby Opry Mills looking for shopping bargains and good food.

Thursday morning found everyone up and ready for the sessions. Throughout the day the hallways were filled with participants looking for sessions featuring their favorite topics and sometimes just visiting with friends. Visiting the hospitality room was a must to get a quick cup of coffee or tea and a cookie and use the complimentary WiFi. Also, you could find a list of the best restaurants in town, just ask directions, or sit down and rest and plan your next activity! The Local Events Committee was always there to lend a hand.

On Thursday afternoon, the Tennessee Ballroom was filled for the opening ceremony. President Nancy Sattler welcomed everyone and thanked all who worked to make the conference a success and all who attended. Jerry Faulkner, President of Volunteer State CC, the host college for the conference, welcomed everyone to Nashville. Zalman Usiskin gave a thought-provoking talk on “Cleaning Up After the Common Core.” He talked about some of the issues of the common core movement and compared it to other mathematics reforms of the past.

Immediately after the opening session, the exhibit hall was officially opened so that attendees could visit a variety of vendors and publishers. They got a glimpse of new texts and technologies that are becoming available for mathematics classes. You could even find a few t-shirts featuring math, music and science. A large display of affiliate posters was set up in the exhibit hall. Each affiliate was given the opportunity to construct a poster showing detailed information about their state(s). Everyone enjoyed stopping by and seeing this vast array of interesting displays. The annual lighting of the Opryland Christmas Extravaganza followed the grand opening of the exhibit hall. The Opryland grounds were aglow with thousands of lights!

The poster session was a great success again this year. Honey Kirk, assistant conference coordinator, did an excellent job organizing the session. Many posters were on display showing interests, research, etc. of their creators.

Thursday evening, the ACCCESS fellows had a reunion reception celebrating a decade of the project. Everyone enjoyed meeting friends and talking about experiences with ACCCESS.

Friday found everyone again attending session after session soaking up information to take back to their institution for use in classrooms and to share with peers. One of the featured speakers, Billy Hix, gave an uplifting and inspirational talk called “Math Really Rocks” where he focused on members of the math and space science community who break the stereotype that many have of the math profession. On Friday at lunch time, attendees grabbed boxed lunches and gathered at Regional meetings. Each region enjoyed sharing affiliate news and accomplishments.
On Friday night, AMATYC treated everyone to cake and a fantastic show, “Country Music Through the Decades,” to celebrate AMATYC’s 40th anniversary! The show featured many country music songs performed by talented singers/actors and a great time was had by all! Saturday morning found the LEC up bright and early preparing the tables for the breakfast. Conference mementos of earbuds and guitar keychains were placed at each chair so everyone would have something to keep as a remembrance of “Music to My Ears.” President Nancy Sattler again welcomed everyone. The morning speaker was Herb Gross, the first president of AMATYC. He gave a very enjoyable and sometimes humorous speech about his life as an instructor and reflections of his years in education.

One of the morning sessions found featured speakers Robbie Melton and Mary Martin highlighting the impact of mobile devices and apps as mathematical teaching, learning, and instructional tools as well as alternative classroom and delivery models.

Saturday afternoon the conference atmosphere was winding down. Many now found their way downtown to many wonderful music venues and restaurants that Nashville has to offer. Others were able to catch a show at the Grand Ole Opry in its original venue of the Ryman Auditorium. What a wonderful way to end a wonderful week!

On Sunday morning, the last of the sessions were held for attendees. At the closing ceremony, President Sattler wrapped up the conference by asking those in attendance to relate their best moments of the week. Many said “meeting people” and “sharing ideas.” This indicates it was indeed a successful conference.

The LEC wants to thank Pearson Education, Cengage Learning, and Hawkes Learning Systems for their generous donations to the hospitality room and also thanks to the affiliates who donated money for food for the room. I know the attendees enjoyed it while it lasted!

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies to the Pencil Box Foundation. Several boxes of supplies were donated making the school supply drive a great success!

The LEC is very glad y’all came and hope you had an experience that was “music to your ears.” Come back to visit Nashville again for more music and fun! Make plans to attend the 2015 AMATYC Annual Conference in New Orleans for another great conference!
Focus on Affiliates: ORMATYC and WAMATYC

by Liz Hylton, Northwest VP

The Oregon Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (ORMATYC) was established in 1987. The purpose of ORMATYC is to encourage the development of effective mathematics programs, to afford a state forum for exchange of ideas, to further develop and improve the mathematics education and the mathematics related experience of students in two-year colleges, to promote the professional welfare and development of its members, and to afford a forum for input at the state level concerning mathematics education. Jerry Kissick serves as the president of ORMATYC and Jessica Bernards was elected as president-elect. Jessica is a Project ACCCESS Fellow - cohort 9.

This past April, ORMATYC's 28th Annual Conference was held at the Inn at Spanish Head in Lincoln City, OR. This popular conference hotel is located right on the beach and each room boasts a balcony with a view of the Pacific Ocean. Garrett Gregor of Clark College in Vancouver, WA, delivered the opening keynote, The Mathematics of Brewing Beer II: The Brewing Industry. Pat McKeague of MathTV and XYZ Textbooks gave the closing keynote address, Five Minutes to a More Satisfying Course. Conference attendees selected from a wide variety of over thirty presentations, with topics ranging from developmental mathematics reform to the classification and canonical forms of partial differential equations.

The Washington Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (WAMATYC) was formed in 1986 in Yakima, WA. WAMATYC's yearly meetings are held during the annual Washington Community College Mathematics Conference (WCCMC). This past May, the WCCMC annual conference was held at the conference center in Wenatchee, WA. This year, Salah Abed of Big Bend CC, completed his two-year term as WAMATYC president and handed the gavel over to Pete Wildman of Spokane CC.

While WAMATYC does not directly plan the conference, the affiliate provides support by funding one of the conference keynote speakers. WAMATYC also provides financial support to the Western Washington Community College Student Mathematics Conference, Project ACCCESS, and provides awards for the Washington State Mathematics League winners. This year WAMATYC is administering the Washington State Mathematics Awards, giving awards for Education Reform, Teaching, Service, and Lifetime Achievement. WAMATYC also provides leadership in the state Math Task Force, which is organized by the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges. The purpose of the task force is to increase student success in completing precollege and college-level mathematics, to reduce the share of recent high school graduates requiring precollege math courses, and to develop a common set of metrics for evaluating progress towards improving student success in precollege and college-level mathematics.

WAMATYC will hold its 2015 meeting at the WCCMC, to be held April 30–May 2 at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan, WA. The ORMATYC annual conference will once again be held at the Inn at Spanish Head on April 23–25. A joint conference is being planned for 2016.

AMATYC FutureGrant Program

by John Pazdar, AMATYC Grants Coordinator

Grant Proposal News

On October 20, 2014, Doug Mace (PD), Fred Feldon, and Karise Mace (PIs) submitted a $408,000 grant proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) Program. The project is entitled: “The AMATYC Digital Classroom Model.”

The project's goal is to use the experience of the Innovators and Early Adopters to design, develop, and deploy a Digital Classroom Model for the Early Majority, Late Majority, and Laggards of two-year college mathematics faculty. This project will identify the different model elements involved in the mathematics classroom and course environments, and provide digital options to achieving this instructional goal.

Objective 1  Design a Digital Classroom Model.
Objective 2  Develop the Digital Classroom Model.
Objective 3  Deploy the Digital Classroom Model.

NSF requires six months to review the project and if funded, the project will begin early summer 2015.

If any AMATYC member is interested in discussing grant work involvement specifically or in general please contact John Pazdar at jspazdar@snet.net subject line: Grants.
Calling all procrastinators. The deadline to submit nominations for the 2015 election of the AMATYC Executive Board is February 1, 2015. The Nominating Committee will recommend a slate to the current board for their consideration at their Spring Board Meeting. Once finalized, the slate will be presented to the AMATYC membership with the election taking place in late-September. The newly elected board will begin its two-year term on January 1, 2016.

The positions being slated for the 2015 elections include: President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and the 8 Regional Vice-Presidents. For more details about the responsibilities of these AMATYC Board positions and the nomination process, please follow the Get Involved link at amatyc.org.

A complete nomination packet (PDF document) consists of the following materials in this order:

- a formal letter of intent, signed* by the nominee/candidate;
- a resume/vita for the nominee/candidate no longer than four pages. If the submitted resume is longer than allowed, only the first four pages of the vita will be considered by the Nominating Committee; and
- a signed* letter of support from the college supervisor of the nominee/candidate on college letterhead. This letter should state that the college supports the person’s nomination and is aware that the person, if elected, would be expected to attend board meetings in the spring (Thursday-Tuesday) and fall (the entire week of the conference).
*electronic signatures are acceptable

The letter of intent should indicate what strengths the candidate will bring to the position, why they are interested in the position, and how they will help promote the mission of AMATYC. The letter should also state that they would allow their name to be considered by the Nominating Committee and the AMATYC Executive Board to be a candidate for the specified office(s), that if selected to be a candidate they would allow their name to be on the ballot, and that if elected, they will serve. Members who are willing to serve in more than one position should list their preferred order for the positions. Only one nomination packet is needed.

The resume/vita should be between 3 - 4 pages. If the submitted resume is longer than allowed, only the first 4 pages of the vita will be considered by the Nominating Committee.

Nomination materials must be submitted as a PDF document to Jim Roznowski (jimroznowski@amatyc.org), no later than February 1, 2015.
AMATYC 2016

Mathematics Excellence Award

by Jim Roznowski, Chair

AMATYC recognizes excellence both inside and outside the classroom through the Teaching Excellence (TE) Award and the Mathematics Excellence (ME) Award. The AMATYC ME Award is intended for educators who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at the two-year college. The first award was presented in 1984 to Phil Cheifetz. Over the intervening years, the award has been given to such individuals as: Stephen Rodi, Wade Ellis, Susan Wood, Ed Laughbaum, Sadie Bragg, and Martha Goshaw. The next award will be presented at the 2016 AMATYC Annual Conference in Denver.

Selection Criteria
Award criteria are: national reputation, leadership and activities in professional organizations, professional talks and presentations, awards and grants received, publications, professional activities on a regional, state, and national scale, teaching expertise, and other contributions to mathematics and/or mathematics education.

Nomination Packet
Any interested person may submit a nomination. Members may nominate themselves. The nominator is responsible for securing documents to support the nomination. A completed nomination packet consists of:

- The nominee's résumé or vita that must not exceed 3 pages. Pages in excess of 3 pages will not be distributed to the committee.
- A letter of support, which is also the nomination letter.
- Two additional letters of support. At least one of the letters of support should be from someone in an AMATYC region other than the nominee’s.

The nominator must submit the complete nomination packet as a pdf file to Mathematics Excellence Award Committee Chair, Jim Roznowski (jimroznowski@amatyc.org). Nominations must be received by Sunday, November 1, 2015.

A committee of AMATYC members representing AMATYC’s eight regions will review the nomination packets. The AMATYC Executive Board makes the final selection.

Complete information and answers to frequently asked questions are available under the “Get Involved” tab on the AMATYC website www.amatyc.org.

Student Mathematics League

by Susan R. Strickland

At the time of this writing, the results from Round 1 of the Student Mathematics League competition are still coming in. Round 2 will take place from Friday, February 13 through Saturday, March 7, 2015. If your school is not already participating in the SML, please visit the website at www.amatyc.org/?StudentMathLeague to learn more. Contact the SML Coordinator by email at susanst@csmd.edu with any questions about the competition or school registration.

Several awards were given during the Saturday breakfast at the annual conference in Nashville. The Glenn Smith Team Award was presented to Anatoly Nikolaychuk on behalf of the team from Los Angeles City College (as pictured). The Charles Miller Memorial Scholarship (generously given by Pearson Education) was awarded to Erwin Sutiono from De Anza College by Michael Hirsch, the Pearson Education representative, and accepted on Erwin's behalf by Barbara Illowsky from De Anza. Erwin is already using his scholarship at the University of California at Berkeley.

The results of the Faculty Mathematics League test given during the conference in Nashville were also announced at the Saturday breakfast. The exam was given to 60 quite serious participants. Special recognition was once again given to T.J. Duda from Columbus State CC who has participated in 10 out of the 11 Faculty Math League Competitions. This year, third place was taken by Anatoly Nikolaychuk from Los Angeles City College and there was a tie for first place between Aisha Arroyo from Massasoit CC and Curtis Mitchell from Kirkwood CC. The Faculty Math League competition was again sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta, and Kay Weiss made sure both of the first place winners were presented with awards. The coveted plexiglass statue for the winning regional team of three was the Central region and the statue was more than graciously passed from Northeast VP Ernie Danforth to Central VP Nicole Lang (as pictured).

Many traditional two-year institutions have begun to offer four-year programs and degrees. Depending on those programs, a school may or may not be eligible to participate in the SML competitions. If an institution would like to participate, a committee has been formed to review the programs offered at the school and make a determination as to their eligibility for participation in the SML. Any such college may request a review by sending an email to the SML Coordinator, Susan Strickland, at susanst@csmd.edu.
**Committee Reports**

**INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT METHOD**

by Behnaz Rouhani, Placement and Assessment Committee Chair

Faculty employ innovative methods to assess students. Allison Wolf, from Georgia Perimeter College shares how she uses Online Reading Quizzes to gauge students’ understanding of the material in the following submission:

Many math students do not bother to read their texts, turning to them only when they encounter difficulty with the homework. Even then, many students limit themselves to items that are marked apart in some way, for example, items that appear in a large, differently-colored box. This approach towards the class text speaks to some deficits in study skills and in the ability to extract information from the text itself. More experienced students, those in the junior and senior years of their undergraduate education, are expected to be able to read the text and make sense of it on their own, with instructors helping with the more detailed or trickier parts that students might not pick up on as easily. Teachers can use graded reading quizzes to help students make this transition more smoothly.

Allison’s quizzes are typically one or two questions long and speak to larger issues within the section being read. Examples include “In your own words, explain the difference between proof by contradiction and proof by contraposition,” and “Consider the statement ‘∃ a businessman x so that x is wearing a bowler hat.’ If you meet a businessman who is not wearing a bowler hat, is this statement false? Explain your answer. How could you show that this statement is true?” These quizzes ensure that students prepare for each class session and come ready to ask detailed questions about what they have read rather than building an expectation that the instructor will cover the basics in class.

These quizzes are more effective if started at the very beginning of the semester. This helps the students build appropriate habits. During the first class period, the students are informed that they are expected to keep up with the reading for the class, and that before each class session they are expected to take an online reading quiz that gauges their understanding of the reading. They are shown where to find information about the class schedule and where to find the quizzes. Consider putting a copy of the text on reserve at the library so that students who do not have the book during the first two weeks of classes have access to it, and you may find it helpful to run an ungraded in-class reading activity during the first class or two in order to discuss reading strategies and convince the students that this is feasible.”

Would you like to share tips about assessment techniques from your classroom or placement methods used at your institution? If so, contact Behnaz Rouhani at behnaz.rouhani@gpc.edu for more information.

**TEACHER PREPARATION COMMITTEE**

by Andy D. Jones, Chair

The 40th Annual AMATYC Conference in Nashville offered an outstanding selection of sessions and workshops – many of which focused on teacher preparation. The Teacher Preparation Committee would like to thank those presenters who volunteered their time and expertise to share their successes, activities, and ideas about teacher preparation at two-year colleges.

The Teacher Preparation Committee met during the conference in Nashville to discuss future activities and initiatives. Current plans include sponsoring a follow-up webinar in 2015 as well as a themed session during the 41st Annual Conference in New Orleans around the topic of implementing the mathematical practices of the Common Core State Standards through problem solving. Committee members also discussed a proposal and funding sources for curriculum enhancements and professional development for two-year faculty who teach courses for prospective teachers.

For the first time, the committee sponsored a round table session during the Nashville conference to discuss topics of concern to the teacher preparation community. Attendance at the round table was excellent with over twenty participants. Participants discussed consequences of new state-mandated prerequisite courses for teacher preparation programs, implications of the Common Core State Standards on the curriculum of courses for prospective teachers, and the variety of course offerings at two-year colleges across the nation.

The Teacher Preparation Committee encourages you to submit a proposal for a session or a workshop or to participate in the themed session in New Orleans. You can find more information about the Teacher Preparation Committee and its activities at www.sites.google.com/site/amatyctprep. AMATYC members are encouraged to join the committee by self-enrolling in the Teacher Preparation group at www.AMATYC.org or by contacting Andy Jones at jonesad@pgcc.edu.

As a result of AMATYC bylaw changes, the Southwest Region welcomes Arkansas to its region, the Northwest region welcomes Wyoming to its region, and the West region welcomes Utah. All regions are excited by the additions.
Fall Board Meeting

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2014 AMATYC FALL BOARD MEETING**

by Mary Beth Orange, Board Secretary

The AMATYC Executive Board met before the AMATYC Annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee, November 9–12, 2014. Highlights of the meeting included:

- The following appointments were approved by the board, pending membership verification: Cathey Jordan, Wake Technical CC, as the Southeast representative to the Placement and Assessment Committee; Gavin Waters as the editorial panel member for the Central Region of AMATYC; Renee Austin, Carol Walker, Gloria Martel, Darlene Frederic, Michael Cruz, Leah Wooden, and Deana Frickey to the New Orleans Local Events Committee; Wendi Morrison as Editing Director; Judy Williams, reappointed as Program Coordinator; Tammi Marshall, as Local Events Coordinator for the 2017 AMATYC conference in San Diego.

- The board approved: the scheduling of a six-speaker themed session for the MIC (Math Intensive Committee) for the 2015 conference. Title: Teaching and Learning in Pre-calculus, Calculus, and Beyond; The Teacher Preparation Committee requested a themed session consisting of six presentations to be offered at the 2015 AMATYC Annual Conference in New Orleans and an Ignite event to be held on the Friday evening of the AMATYC Annual Conference in New Orleans. This Ignite session will be open to all possible presenters, but spearheaded and planned by Fred Feldon and the ITLC Committee. This brings the number of themed session offered at the 2015 AMATYC Annual Conference to three since the board approved a themed session for the Statistics Committee at its Spring Board Meeting.

- Approval of the revised position statement on “Undergraduate Textbooks,” changing the title to “Undergraduate Textbooks and Instructional Materials.”

- The New Orleans Local Events Coordinator, the New Orleans local committee, and the Conference Coordinator will work together on a clothing drive for Covenant House New Orleans during the 2015 AMATYC Annual Conference at the Sheraton New Orleans.

- AMATYC will continue to provide each AMATYC affiliate organization with one affiliate scholarship per year for three years (New Orleans, Denver, San Diego). Each scholarship provides for one discount member conference registration.

- The “Refer A Friend” campaign will be held during the months of January 1 through May 31, 2015. A regular or adjunct member will be given $10 off for each new regular or adjunct member (not a member in the last 5 years) they refer through the campaign up to the cost of their membership level.

Full minutes of the meeting may be found on the AMATYC website, www.amatyc.org/?page=BoardMinutesMotions.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2014 AMATYC DELEGATE ASSEMBLY**

by Mary Beth Orange, Board Secretary

The AMATYC Delegate Assembly met at the 2014 AMATYC Annual Conference in Nashville, TN, on November 15, 2014. The following were approved at the meeting the revised bylaws of AMATYC, the position statement on the “Appropriate Use of Intermediate Algebra as a Prerequisite Course,” and the position statement on the “Academic Preparation of Mathematics Faculty at Two-Year Colleges.”

Full minutes of the meeting including the text of the above items may be found on the AMATYC website, www.amatyc.org/?page=DelegateAssembly.

**STATISTICS COMMITTEE**

by Mary DeHart, Chair

The Statistics Committee would like to express its appreciation to Roxey Peck, Michael Sullivan, and Marty Triola for their participation in the Statistics Panel Discussion, Identifying Trends in Statistics Education, at the 40th Annual AMATYC Conference in Nashville. Each of the panelists provided a favorite simulation activity for use in introductory statistics classes. The activities are posted on the AMATYC website, along with a PowerPoint presentation featuring the questions that were addressed during the discussion at www.amatyc.org/?page=2014ConfProceedings.

The AMATYC Annual Conference in Nashville offered an excellent selection of statistics presentations and the 41st Annual AMATYC Conference to be held in New Orleans from November 19–22, 2015, promises to do the same. Each year, the AMATYC Statistics Committee meets during the annual conference and discussions begun at the meeting continue via email. Current plans include the presentation of a Statistics themed session to be held at the AMATYC Conference in New Orleans.

The AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee and the AMATYC Statistics Committee are currently sponsoring a series of statistics webinars. The first webinar, Interpreting Graphical Displays of Data, was presented by Roxy Peck on December 8, 2014. The next webinar, Using Real World Data in the Introductory Statistics Course, will be presented by Kelly Fitzpatrick. Registration for upcoming webinars is available via the main page of the AMATYC website. Webinars that have already been held are available at www.amatyc.org/?page=Webinars.

Please be sure to check out the AMATYC Statistics Resource Page. This web page of information for statistics teachers includes links to classroom resources, pedagogy, course content, career information and more. www.amatyc.org/?page=StatsResources. If you would like to join the AMATYC Statistics Committee, please contact Mary DeHart at mdehart@sussex.edu.
THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

With shouts of “dots are cool” being heard through the corridors and individuals being honored through tributes and memorials, Nashville was an exciting time to be part of the AMATYC Foundation. The support of members and conference attendees this year was amazing. Donations received from January 1, 2014, through the end of the conference totaled $32,548.00.

The contributions received in Nashville included a special donation of $2,783.00 from AMATYC Project ACCCESS fellows. The check was presented by Rob Eby, cohort 2 Fellow, in recognition of the tenth cohort completing the program in Nashville.

As has been done for the past few years, a competition was held among AMATYC regions. Laura Seeman, Waukesha County Technical College, received a one-year complimentary AMATYC membership as a representative of the Midwest region which had the largest total donations of $8,800.00. Jennifer Huri, Spokane Falls CC, received a one-year membership as the representative of Northwest region which had the largest percentage (67%) of conference attendees making donations. The Foundation also awarded a complimentary discount member registration to the 2015 AMATYC Conference in New Orleans to Carol Gudauskas, Southern Union State CC, as a result of a drawing from all donors.

The recipient of the first AMATYC Presidential Student Scholarship was also announced in Nashville. Randi Reed was awarded a $1,000 scholarship and was sponsored by WAMATYC. Each nomination comes from one of AMATYC’s affiliates. The Foundation encourages all affiliates to submit a nomination of a deserving student for next year.

Once again, on behalf of the AMATYC Foundation and all of AMATYC, thank you for your support this past year and especially during the AMATYC Annual Conference in Nashville.

AMATYC FOUNDATION BOARD VACANCY

Contributions to the AMATYC Foundation can be monetary but can also be a contribution of time and expertise. The Foundation continues to look for an individual to fill a four-year term on the Foundation Board which became open on January 1, 2015. Individuals considered for such a position come from the AMATYC membership-at-large and are selected for the diversity of their experience and knowledge. Examples of the skills being sought include: knowledge of investment planning and strategies, fund raising experience, and non-profit organizational skills. To be considered for this four-year appointment, please send a letter expressing interest and a summary of related experience to Jim Roznowski (jimroznowski@amatyc.org).

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The AMATYC Foundation continues to offer support to the projects and initiatives of AMATYC and mathematics taught during the first two-years of college. During 2014, the Foundation approved funding for the following:

- AMATYC Project ACCCESS - $15,000.00
- AMATYC Project ACCCESS Reunion - $5,000.00
- AMATYC Presidential Student Scholarship - $1,000.00
- Support for a representative to MathFest in Spokane to participate in a panel on developmental mathematics - $1,800.00
- Support for a representative to the 2015 NADE conference in Greenville to participate in a panel on developmental mathematics - $1,500.00

This level of support is only possible through the contributions of AMATYC members. The Foundation hopes you will continue to support the AMATYC Foundation in 2015.

Watch for the following job announcements to be posted:

- Advertising Chair
- Roommate Network Director

Details and application deadlines will be posted on the AMATYC website soon.
Future AMATYC Conferences

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<td>2015</td>
<td>New Orleans, LA</td>
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For additional information, contact the AMATYC Office at amatyc@amatyc.org or 901.333.6243.