

NEWS

Opening Doors
Through Mathematics



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2008 Conference Program Highlights

Washington, DC is “a monumental place for mathematics” as we will demonstrate November 20-23, 2008, when two-year college mathematics faculty converge on our nation’s capital for AMATYC’s 34th Annual Conference. Thursday’s opening session address by Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, will discuss “21st Century Math Education: Promoting Success Among All Students.” On Saturday, following the annual awards breakfast, David Wright, also known as “Dr. D” on the “NASA Science Files” TV series, will demonstrate that “Physics is Phun.”



Additional conference events not to be missed include:

- ❖ “Gender Differences and the Teaching of Mathematics” by invited speaker, Abigail Norfleet James;
- ❖ “Mathematical Patterns in Nature” by invited speaker, John A. Adam;
- ❖ “Why We Must Achieve the Dream” by George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges;
- ❖ “The National Mathematics Advisory Panel” recommendations presented by Larry Faulkner;
- ❖ “Using Mathematics to Create Symmetry Patterns” by Joseph Gallian, president of the Mathematical Association of America;
- ❖ “Mathematical Reasoning for ALL Students on Key Math Topics and Skills” by Henry S. Kepner, Jr., president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics;
- ❖ “Achieve’s ADP Assessment Partnership: Algebra II End-of-Course Exam” by Laura Slover and Tracy Halka;
- ❖ Themed session, “Elections and Balloting;”
- ❖ Themed session, “Applications in Action;”
- ❖ Themed session, “Math on the Web: Tools, Techniques, and Observations;”
- ❖ Themed session, “Placement and Assessment and *Beyond Crossroads*;”
- ❖ Sessions and workshops presented by all eight of AMATYC’s 2007 Teaching Excellence Award winners;
- ❖ The “Division/Department Chair Colloquium;”
- ❖ A Poster Session;
- ❖ Friendly competition in the “Faculty Mathematics League Contest;”
- ❖ Sharing sessions to address the needs of adjuncts and affiliate leaders;
- ❖ The latest advances in technology demonstrated in several commercial sessions;
- ❖ An exhibit hall filled with representatives from all your favorite publishing companies eager to share materials designed to help your students succeed.

Make plans now to renew your professional energy by joining your friends and colleagues at AMATYC’s 34th Annual Conference in Washington, DC.

MCC Hosts First National Mathematics Competition

C. Altay Özgener

Manatee CC (MCC) is hosting a national mathematics competition for students from two-year colleges Oct. 24 and 25, 2008, at MCC Bradenton in Bradenton, FL. The first-ever competition is co-sponsored by Mu Alpha Theta, The National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society, AMATYC, and MCC. It is hoped that this will become an annual event.

The competition is open to any student currently enrolled in a two-year college program in the country. Entrants must be accompanied by a faculty member from their college. There will be individual and team competitions; calculator and non-calculator challenges; games and more.

The guest speaker will be mathematician Frederic Zerla, Professor Emeritus University of South Florida. Zerla specializes in the history of mathematics. In 2002, he received a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the MAA.

Details and a registration form are available by clicking on “Mathletes” on the MCC website at <http://mccfl.edu/MathDept>. For more information, email ozgenea@mccfl.edu.

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Foundations for Success – What does the report of the National Mathematics Panel have to do with you?

Rikhi Blair
Lakeland CC • Kirtland, OH

On March 13, 2008, the National Mathematics Advisory Panel held its last meeting to release its final report to President Bush and the Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. The final report, *Foundations for Success*, focuses specifically on improving the teaching and learning of algebra in pre-kindergarten through grade eight. The Panel members deliberated and debated long and hard on the issues, research, and direction of the report and are to be commended for their efforts. This report is available online at www.ed.gov/MathPanel.

The Panel reviewed 16,000 studies for this report and presented 45 findings and recommendations based on the best evidence in these studies on numerous topics including instructional policies, course content, learning processes, assessments, and professional development for instructors. The studies and reports of specific Task Groups are published in the document *Foundations for Success: Reports of the Task Groups and Subcommittees of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel (Volumes 1 And 2) (Math Panel)*. Secretary of Education Spellings has put into motion the plans for a national summit based on the report's recommendations. This summit may be held as early as October 2008.

The membership of the National Math Panel did not include a two-year college faculty member or administrator, however AMATYC was given an opportunity to provide input in August 2006. With the assistance of a task force of AMATYC members, Past President Kathy Mowers responded on behalf of the organization.

You may now be asking "What does this have to do with me?" The work of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel is significant to the mathematics community and the priority it has placed on research related to teachers and teacher education should be supported. The evidence presented in the analysis is critical information to all mathematics faculty. Of particular interest to two-year faculty is the report's recommendation that all "students be able to proceed successfully at least through the content of Algebra II."^{vi} That recommendation is clarified in the report with a list of Major Topics of School Algebra and a set of Benchmarks for the Critical Foundations that are to be used to guide classroom curricula, mathematics instruction, textbook development, and state assessments. The list of Major Topics and Benchmarks have direct implications for the knowledge that future community college students will bring to postsecondary education and to the curricula at your institutions. *You should not ignore this report.*

To be specific, the report's Benchmarks for the Critical Foundations includes fluency with whole numbers, fractions, and geometry and measurement developed in grades 3-7. The concepts and skills outlined in those benchmarks parallel the course outlines in most community college's arithmetic or pre-algebra courses. *This is encouraging.*

Similarly, the Major Topics of School Algebra presented in the National Math Panel report also look like the course outlines of introductory and intermediate algebra at most community colleges: fluency with symbols and expressions, linear equations, quadratic equations, functions, algebra of polynomials, combinatorics and finite probability. *This may not be encouraging.*

AMATYC's *Beyond Crossroads* addresses the need for students to develop a high level of quantitative literacy. The appropriate mathematics to accomplish this goal should go *beyond* traditional skills in algebra, focusing on developing mathematical reasoning to prepare students for future academic study and their place in the workforce. Rather than providing a traditional algebra experience for community college students, curricula should be designed to help students learn to think abstractly *and* develop reasoning skills to solve new problem situations, not only become skillful with routine algebraic procedures.

Two recommendations presented in the report are of particular interest to two-year college mathematics faculty. The standards-based mathematics education movement of the last decade has supported the use of "real-world" problems with the goal of improving student performance. The Panel's review of research in this area indicated that "if mathematical ideas are taught using "real-world" contexts, then students' performance on assessments involving similar "real-world" problems is improved." However, recommendation #26 goes on to state that "performance on assessments more focused on other aspects of mathematics learning, such as computation, simple word problems, and equation solving, is not improved."ⁱⁱⁱ This synthesis of the research has direct implications for CC classrooms!

Recommendation #27 and its research are also of special interest to community college mathematics faculty. "Explicit instruction with students who have mathematical difficulties has shown consistently positive effects on performance with word problems and computation."ⁱⁱⁱⁱ While this recommendation does not advocate for *all* mathematics instruction be delivered in an explicit fashion, it does suggest that some students benefit from regular explicit mathematics instruction.

Any solution to improving the mathematics education for US students in the K-12 sector must include the involvement and resources of the nation's community colleges. That means CC faculty cannot sit idly by while recommendations are implemented. *Two-year colleges must be part of the solution!*

You are urged to read the National Math Panel report, consider the recommendations and respond to them. Challenge yourself to work with mathematics colleagues in your local high schools to develop solutions. Include these actions in the strategic planning of your department:

- ❖ Organize a department meeting to open dialogue about the National Math Panel recommendations. Craft a departmental position on those recommendations.
- ❖ Organize a consortium of high school, two-year and four-year college mathematics faculty in your region or state to discuss your position.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and think creatively about what the mathematics curricula *should* be. It's up to CC faculty to capitalize on the momentum created by this Panel. Review the literature presented in these Task Force reports. Take the first step to collaborate with your colleagues and develop mathematics

➤➤Continued on page 3

AMATYC Membership Rates for 2008

In 2007, the AMATYC membership approved a process by which annual regular AMATYC membership dues are set every two years by applying the Consumer Price Index - Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the last two years to the current dues and rounding up to the nearest dollar. This adjusted rate is set at the Fall Board Meeting in odd-numbered years with the change taking place on July 1 of the following even-numbered year. The new rates effective July 1, 2008 are:

- Individual membership

1 year	\$80
2 years	\$155
3 years	\$225
- Adjunct membership \$40
- Retired membership \$40
- Student membership \$10
- Lifetime membership \$1600
- Institutional membership remains at \$455, the currently published rate, and will not change until 2009.

New AMATYC Conference Coordinator - Keven Dockter

Keven Dockter (Inver Hills CC, MN) joined the AMATYC leadership team as AMATYC Incoming Conference Coordinator in April 2008. He will work closely with Margie Hobbs, AMATYC Conference Coordinator, through the end of the 2009 AMATYC annual conference. You may have met Keven in Minneapolis, where he did an outstanding job as the Minneapolis Local Events Coordinator. Be sure to introduce yourself to Keven and extend thanks to Margie at the conference in Washington, DC this November.



"An educational system isn't worth a great deal if it teaches young people how to make a living and doesn't teach them how to live."

Charles Snitow

A Report from the Regional Vice Presidents

What a wonderful experience the Spring Board Meeting turned out to be. Six of the eight regional vice presidents are new this year, making this board meeting especially exciting. They would like to share some of the decisions that really stood out.

For those who want to attend the annual AMATYC conference and teach on quarter systems, the September 30 discount registration deadline has always created problems. Faculty are barely back to work and the discount period passes. Processing registrations after that date creates many logistical issues for the AMATYC Office. A compromise was agreed upon that would allow people to register online at the discount rate until October 7. This compromise gives faculty the opportunity to get back to work and register for the conference at the discount rate, so long as it is done online by October 7.

The AMATYC Board passed a couple of motions designed to encourage faculty to attend the annual conference for the first time or for the first time in a long time.

The first of these motions established a process to provide a coupon to first-time conference attendees. The coupon gives a \$50 discount to registrants on their next year's membership dues. That is, if you register for the conference you will receive a \$50 coupon good towards your membership dues for the following year. The coupon will have an 8/31 expiration date (in the year following the conference).

The second motion is designed to give a discount to first-time conference attendees. Beginning with the 2009 conference (Las Vegas), AMATYC will offer a \$50 discount to any first-time conference attendee who registers during the discount registration period. "First-time conference attendees" are defined as people who have never attended a conference or have not attended the conference since 2000.

Finally, for faculty who have excess professional development monies that will roll back into the general fund at their institutions the AMATYC Office will gladly process membership or conference registrations in the Spring. You could use this year's professional development monies to fund your Fall AMATYC conference experience if your institution allows you to use that money to pay for travel in the following year. If this doesn't apply to you, don't forget to register early in the fall to be able to qualify for the discount registration.

Each of the regional vice presidents was able to convey excellent and thoughtful ideas and statements based on communications with the membership. Please continue to talk with your region's vice president about ways that AMATYC can serve you better.

➤➤President's Message, Continued from page 2

courses and programs that will prepare students with the reasoning skills they need for tomorrow.

References:

ⁱ US Department of Education (2008), National Mathematics Advisory Panel Report, *Foundations for Success*, Washington, DC, www.ed.gov/MathPanel, page xvii.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid.*, p. xxiii

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.*

Developmental Mathematics Committee

by Jack Rotman

The Developmental Mathematics Committee's (DMC) purpose is to help each instructor and to improve the profession. If you (or another AMATYC member) wishes to join the DMC, just go to the website, devmath.amatyc.org.

The largest current project of the DMC involves creating an AMATYC Traveling Workshop strand for developmental mathematics, with leadership provided by Gail Burkett (email burkettg@pbcc.edu). A group is working on identifying possible topics for the Workshops and will begin the process of making these a reality. If you would like to help, first join the DMC ... and then let Jack Rotman know of your interest!

Another project involves a possible national focus conference on developmental mathematics. The AMATYC Executive Board approved a motion supporting the concept for this invitation-only conference. Highlights of the current draft for the concept of this conference include:

- Rationale (developmental mathematics, nationally, remains relatively unchanged)
 - Prior Attempts (local or state efforts, limited impact; no recognized 'models that work')
 - Why the Old Approach Did Not Work (faculty isolation, lack of a shared vision, administrative issues)
 - The Focus Conference (two days, specific outcomes, plan for dissemination)
- The next few months will be used to seek external funding (approximately \$40,000 for this project).

The DMC will be sponsoring a "Network & Sharing Session" for developmental mathematics at the 34th AMATYC Annual Conference in Washington, DC, on November 21, from 2:15 to 4:15 pm. This session will be completely devoted to direct communication between professionals. We will identify several broad categories to facilitate connecting with others having similar interests.

The DMC will also have two "business" meetings at the conference this fall on November 20, at 10:45 am and November 21, at 1:00 pm. The Traveling Workshop will be a major topic at both meetings.

The AMATYC Regional Representatives provide an additional method for communicating. If you have a concern about developmental mathematics in general, or the DMC in particular, you may contact your regional representative to the DMC:

Geoffrey Akst	NY	gakst@nyc.rr.com	Northeast
Wade Ellis, Jr.	CA	wade_ellis@westvalley.edu	West
Jennifer Feenstra	GA	jfeenstra@gsc.edu	Southeast
Marilyn Love	WV	marilyn.love@mail.wvu.edu	Mid-Atlantic
Cheryl Mansky	OH	mansky_c@hocking.edu	Midwest
Pat Rhodes	OR	prhodes@tvcc.cc	Northwest
Jeanette Shotwell	TX	jenny.shotwell@ctcd.edu	Southwest
Eleanor Storey	CO	eleanor.storey@frontrange.edu	Central

For other news from the DMC, visit the website (devmath.amatyc.org) and read the past newsletters.

Future AMATYC Conferences

2008	Washington, DC	November 20-23
2009	Las Vegas	November 12-15
2010	Boston	November 11-14
2011	Austin	November 10-13
2012	Jacksonville	November 8-11
2013	Anaheim	October 31-November 3

Placement and Assessment Committee

At the 34th AMATYC Annual Conference in Washington, DC, Nov. 20-23, 2008, there will be a themed session organized by the Placement and Assessment Committee (PAC) on Thursday morning, 8:30-11:25 am, at the same time as the other committee themed sessions (Innovative Pedagogy Strategies, Mathematics Intensive/College Mathematics, and Mathematics for AAS Programs). There are nine 15-minute presentations for the PAC themed session.

The PAC will also have two committee meetings: one Thursday early afternoon 1:45-2:35 pm, and another Friday late afternoon 4:30-5:30 pm.

Here are some questions that Connie Buller, chair of the PAC, has been thinking about and that the PAC may want to address.

- How to do long-term assessment? It is very easy to do post-test activities right at the end of a class, but how do you know if students succeed in the next class?
- How long is it reasonable to assume that their prerequisite is good? (For instance, suppose Maria got a C in intermediate algebra, and wants to take college algebra, but now it has been a year since she had intermediate. What if it has been five years?)
- If course descriptions or content objectives are changed, how do you find out the long-term ramifications? (For instance, suppose conic sections are either included or deleted in college algebra, then how do you know how that decision will impact students' further success?)

If you have thoughts about any of these questions, considering joining the PAC. You can contact Connie Buller at cbuller@mcneb.edu.



Anne O'Shae, Ana Jimenez, Mary Tyler Moore (statue), Jim Sheldon, Heather Gamber (Cohort 1 ACCCESS Fellows) enjoy Minneapolis

Student Mathematics League (SML)

by Susan R. Strickland

The state of California dominated the SML competition this year, taking the top 8 team spots and 12 of the top 13 individual student spots. Approximately 11,400 students from 179 colleges participated this year. Here are some of the results:

Final Team Results:

1.	Pasadena City College, CA	300 points
2.	West Valley College, CA	264.5 points
3.	Santa Monica College, CA	263.5 points
4.	(tie) De Anza College, CA	258 points
4.	(tie) East Los Angeles College, CA	258 points
4.	(tie) Los Angeles City College, CA	258 points
7.	Ohlone College, CA	254 points
8.	San Jose City College, CA	242 points
9.	(tie) Bellevue CC, WA	241 points
9.	(tie) Brookdale CC, NJ	241 points
11.	Normandale CC, MN	236 points

Final Individual Results:

1.	Zhenhua Cui	Pasadena City College, CA	73.5 points
2.	Jujin Yoshimura	De Anza College, CA	71 points
3.	Edward Levin	San Jose City College, CA	67 points
4.	Marvin Shu	West Valley College, CA	64.5 points
5.	Ke Qu	Santa Monica College, CA	63 points
6.	Suiting He	Foothill College, CA	62.5 points
7.	Xing Xu	Pasadena City College, CA	59.5 points
8.	Doug Fung	San Jose City College, CA	58 points
9.	(tie) Kyle Hayes	Normandale CC, MN	57.5 points
9.	(tie) Alan Zhou	Evergreen Valley College, CA	57.5 points
9.	(tie) Terence Lee	Ohlone College, CA	57.5 points

Top Schools and Students by Region:

Central:	Normandale CC, MN Kyle Hayes (Normandale)
Mid-Atlantic:	Brookdale CC, NJ Robert Karol (Brookdale CC)
Midwest:	Harper College, IL Christopher Grow (Grand Rapids CC, MI)
Northeast:	Onondaga CC, NY Ho Jin Yang (Borough of Manhattan CC, NY)
Northwest:	Bellevue CC, WA Ka-Lok Chu (Portland CC, OR)
Southeast:	Durham Technical CC, NC Luis Ares (Miami Dade College - Kendall, FL)
Southwest:	Austin CC, TX James Pappas (North Harris College, TX)
West:	Pasadena City College, CA Zhenhua Cui (Pasadena City College, CA)

Congratulations to all the students. A very grateful thanks to all of the moderators who give the exams, grade them, record them, and send them in.

If your school does not currently participate in the SML, please consider registering for next year's competition. Round 1 will take place from Friday, October 17 through Saturday, November 1 and Round 2 will take place from Friday, February 13, 2009, (it could be good luck!) through Saturday, March 7, 2009.

Bruce Yoshiwara Receives MAA Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching for 2008

University of San Diego certificate
presentation, March 15, 2008

Bruce Yoshiwara received the MAA's Southern California/Nevada Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching for 2008. Bruce has been teaching mathematics at L.A. Pierce College for the past 18 years, including a year in England on a Fulbright Scholarship. Bruce has co-authored a number of well-respected algebra and pre-algebra textbooks with his wife Kathy (the last community college faculty member to win the award in 1996). He is also an associate editor for the *Journal of Online Mathematics and its Applications*. Bruce is actively involved in a number of different programs with AMATYC including service as the *Beyond Crossroads* Implementation Coordinator; working with UCLA's Mathematics Content Program for Teachers; consulting for Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) and Project ACCCESS (Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, Service); serving as the L.A. Pierce Math Department liaison for both the MAA and CMC³ (California Mathematics Council Community Colleges), and serving on the board for CMC³-South.

Bruce is a leader in curriculum development, and is a knowledgeable and respected mathematician in the mathematics education community, spending considerable time in the area of teacher preparation, particularly working in projects at UCLA and Cal State Northridge. He is quite successful in his use of technology as both a content delivery tool and a pedagogy tool. Bruce frequently receives the "Golden Apple award" given out each year by students to their favorite professors. Bruce is extremely diligent and generous with his time in helping students.

Online Store!

Visit the AMATYC Online Store and see interesting items and apparel with the AMATYC logo by following the link on the AMATYC webpage.

USAMO

AMATYC is a sponsoring society of the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), a series of examinations given to thousands of high school students across the nation. Five hundred five outstanding high school students qualified for the USAMO. These students took a challenging, six-question, nine-hour examination, and the top twelve USAMO students were honored in Washington, DC in June. This year, there were two students who tied for first place—Colin Sandon from Vermont and Evan O’Dorney from California, who also won the 2007 Scripps Spelling Bee.

In Washington, DC, President Rikki Blair and President-Elect Rob Farinelli represented AMATYC at a reception for the USAMO awardees and their families at the MAA Carriage House on June 8, and at the Awards Ceremonies at the U.S. State Department Building on June 9. Following the celebration, the winners took the team selection test (TST) to qualify for the U.S. team at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) that was held in Madrid, Spain in July. Each year the team going to the IMO consists of the six students with the highest combined scores from the TST and the USAMO. Once selected, the students spent three weeks at the Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln training for the IMO.



AMATYC leaders dine with USAMO winner Delong Meng and his parents.

“There is no branch of mathematics, however abstract, which may not someday be applied to the phenomena of the real world.”

Nicolai Lobachevsky

Beyond Crossroads Summer Workshop

The first *Beyond Crossroads* summer workshop was held on June 6-7, 2008, at Pikes Peak CC in Colorado Springs, CO. The thirty-six participants were able to take part in the workshop that focused on implementing the ideas of *Beyond Crossroads* in a course, program, or classroom setting. Participants were led through different scenarios that highlighted the use of the implementation cycle of *Beyond Crossroads*. Participants were then “set loose” to tackle a problem at their college. Many of them worked in teams developing solutions to situations at their college while others chose to work individually on their own selected ideas.

A keynote presentation was given by Pat McKeague in which he inspired participants to spend class time relating mathematics to other disciplines and making sure that students were able to see relevance in what they were learning. In addition, there were concurrent sessions led by Rob Kimball, Valerie Harris, Gwen Wiley, Louise Olshan, Holly Ashton, and Jenny Dorrington. These sessions varied in topics ranging from Embracing the Standards to Appropriate Mathematics for all Students to the Mathematics of GPS systems.

The latter was especially useful as participants were treated to a picnic dinner and hike at Garden of the Gods, which is a public park located in Colorado Springs. The outstanding geologic features of the park are the ancient sedimentary beds of red and white sandstones, conglomerates and limestone that were deposited horizontally, but have now been tilted vertically and faulted by the immense mountain building forces caused by the uplift of the Pikes Peak massif. Evidence of past ages: ancient seas, eroded remains of ancestral mountain ranges, alluvial fans, sandy beaches and great sand dune fields can be read in the rocks. It was a wonderful time for the participants and presenters!

Special thanks to Shawna Mahan, Gwen Wiley, and the faculty and staff at Pikes Peak CC for their wonderful hospitality and support throughout the workshop. It will be an experience not soon forgotten by all involved.

Be sure to take advantage of next year’s *Beyond Crossroads* workshop to be held in Cape Cod, MA. Details and more information will be available in early 2009.



Beyond Crossroads workshop participants prepare for a lesson in geology at Garden of the Gods state park.

Crossroads Corner

The Wisdom of Starbucks

by Bruce Yoshiwara

A Starbucks coffee cup had a quote from David Shore, creator and executive producer of the television drama *House*:

People don't read enough. And what reading we do is cursory, without absorbing the subtleties and nuances that lie deep within—
Wow, you've stopped paying attention, haven't you? People can't even read a coffee cup without drifting off.



If you've managed to get this far into this article, perhaps you might consider giving a good look at AMATYC's standards document, *Beyond Crossroads*. Even the vice president of academic affairs at Los Angeles Pierce College has heard of it. He was exposed to *Beyond Crossroads* recommendations because the literature review from California's Basic Skills Initiative (downloadable from www.cccbsi.org/publications) begins its "Effective Practices in Mathematics" section (page 44) with a summary of key ideas from *Beyond Crossroads*.

So if you want to make sure you don't have an administrator knowing more than you do about your own organization's recommendations for teaching and learning mathematics, check out *Beyond Crossroads*.

The *BC Live!* website, www.beyondcrossroads.com, has the entire document in both html and pdf formats, and also has a link for requesting a printed copy of *Beyond Crossroads*.

The RIGHT STUFF -

Appropriate Mathematics for All Students

by Rob Kimball, Project Director

As the title suggests, this NSF-funded project is promoting the right mathematics courses for all students. The project encourages faculty to not only examine the content to be sure it is meaningful and appropriate, but also encourages the use of the most promising practices, technology that aids learning, and assessment techniques that guide instruction and inform the students.

The focus has been on college algebra, but that course can encompass a variety of topics and fit a number of niches. Faculty who have attended workshops sponsored by the grant have found the ideas can be used in a variety of courses. The project coordinators would love to share ideas at your college or with your affiliate. Email the project director at rkimball@waketech.edu for details.

One of the messages conveyed in the workshops is the idea that faculty must create a critical learning environment. Faculty engineer this environment using a variety of methods that involve students to a deeper degree than does simply lecturing. Some faculty see the lecture as a means of providing students with information and skills they need and then can repeat later on for a grade. This instructional method encourages students to only remember material long enough to produce what is expected on a test. It is based on the premise that knowledge is received, not constructed.

It is believed, and research supports, that knowledge is constructed. When students are engaged in activities that require them to think critically as they work towards a solution they can communicate to others, they internalize the mathematics and alter their way of thinking, acting, or feeling. Learning has taken place.

There are four maxims that are shared in the workshops to guide instructors as they prepare for class. It is hoped that you find them helpful.

Understanding over Memorizing
Integration over Isolation
Depth over Breadth
Application over Recognition



Traveling Workshops

Now Available in

Statistics

(and the first six are free!)

It is with great pleasure AMATYC announces the new Statistics Traveling Workshop strand. These workshops focus on current strategies, resources, and research about teaching and learning introductory statistics. Workshop participants will discuss and develop classroom activities and assessments that are in alignment with AMATYC's recommendations in *Beyond Crossroads* and the American Statistical Association's endorsed Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education.

Additionally, AMATYC and the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE) have partnered to present six Statistics Traveling Workshops. AMATYC and CAUSE are looking for single colleges, coalitions of colleges, and affiliates to host one of these funded Statistics Traveling Workshops. Through a National Science Foundation grant, CAUSE will fund the travel, lodging and stipend for the facilitator for these six funded workshops. As part of the NSF grant's evaluation plan, participants are expected to complete a survey before and after the workshop.

Sample topics for Traveling Workshops of the statistics strand include:

- Discussing strategies for teaching an introductory statistics course when emphasizing conceptual understanding;
- Using real data and technology in the classroom;
- Developing statistical literacy and thinking;
- Accessing online resources for statistics instructors;
- Implementing classroom activities that enhance learning; and
- Developing assessment strategies and instruments that identify student learning.

And, just like the other Traveling Workshop strands, the facilitator will strive to personalize your workshop. You can be more than 95% confident ($p < 0.001$) that the value of these workshops will meet your expectations.

For more information about AMATYC Traveling Workshops, contact Patrick Averbek, the Traveling Workshop Coordinator, at patrick.averbeck@edcc.edu.

Combining the AMATYC Constitution and Bylaws Draft Online and Forum in Washington, DC

Committee Members: Irene Doo and Martha Goshaw (co-chairs), Vern Kays, Phil Mahler, Jeff Morford, Beverly Parnell, Anand Ramaswami, Paul Voigt, Chuck Nolan (consultant)

In 2006, the AMATYC executive board appointed the Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CCBC) with the charge of combining the AMATYC Bylaws and Constitution into one document. Since that time, the committee worked hard to inform AMATYC delegates of the process, discuss the changes, and create a draft for discussion at the 2008 AMATYC annual conference in Washington, DC. Included in the process was input from AMATYC delegates and an external parliamentarian.

The latest draft, which will be discussed in an open forum at the conference this November in Washington, DC, is now available online as a link in the 2008 conference site www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2008DC/index.html.

The following timeline is planned for the approval process of the revised Bylaws:

- 2008 spring board meeting Board considers motion to accept proposed changes to the bylaws
- 2008 conference First Delegate Assembly input hearing and Forum
- 2009 spring Committee discusses any additional changes to the bylaws
- 2009 spring board meeting Board votes on motion to approve any additional changes to the bylaws
- 2009 conference Second Delegate Assembly input hearing and Forum
- 2009 Delegate Assembly Delegate Assembly votes on motion to approve proposed changes to the bylaws
- 2010 spring Bylaws are sent to membership for ratification

Anyone with questions or comments about the revised Bylaws can contact either of the committee co-chairs: Irene Doo at idoos@amatyc.org or Martha Goshaw at mgoshaw@aol.com.

The AMATYC Website Has a New Look!

by Jim Ham

If you have visited the AMATYC website recently, you may have been surprised by the new design. While the content of the site has remained mostly unchanged, the new design has the following features:

- The vision statement, *Open Doors Through Mathematics*, approved in 2006, appears at the top of each page.
- The 2008 Annual Conference is highlighted on the Home Page.
- The most popular links were placed on the Home Page so they are a single click away.
- A *News/Highlights* section was added to the Home Page to alert members to the most recent happenings at AMATYC.
- The search engine and menus were moved to the top banner so that more information and graphics could appear on each page.
- A different color scheme was selected.

Hopefully you like the new design. Please send your comments on the new design to the AMATYC website coordinator at web@amatyc.org.

The website continues to be a great resource for members. Check back often for information on past AMATYC publications, recent job announcements, conference and workshop information, affiliate information, and so much more.

Highlights of the 2008 AMATYC Spring Board Meeting

by Irene Doo

The AMATYC Executive Board met at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis on April 25-28, 2008. During the meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Reappointed **Kate Danforth** as Editing Director.
- Reappointed **Marilyn Treder, Peg Crider**, and **Steve Yramategui** to the Student Mathematics League Test Development Team.
- Approved support for the first annual Mu Alpha Theta Two-Year College competition.
- Approved the *Beyond Crossroads* survey for distribution to the AMATYC membership.
- Approved a partnership with CAUSE (Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education) to develop and present Statistics Traveling Workshops.
- Approved a webinar in statistics to be held in the winter of 2009 in collaboration with the American Statistical Association.
- Approved recommendations for content and publishing guidelines for the new AMATYC journal.
- Approved AMATYC funds to support AMATYC Project ACCCESS.
- Approved a partnership policy.
- Approved financial incentives for first-time conference attendees.
- Approved a mini-grant process for AMATYC members.
- Approved a climate survey to be sent to AMATYC members.

Guest editorials and letters to the editor are invited. Submissions must be related to mathematics, mathematics education, or AMATYC. Suggestions for reprints must include the correct citation as well as permission from the original source. Send editorials and letters to Kathryn Kozak at AMATYCNews@amatyc.org.

AMATYC Foundation Honor Roll of Donors

AMATYC is fortunate to have members and friends who support the organization through private gifts. This support has allowed AMATYC to enhance current programs such as *Beyond Crossroads*, AMATYC Project ACCCESS, to support our colleagues from New Orleans, Louisiana, and to create new opportunities for the members it serves such as 2009 and 2010 AMATYC mini-grants to support classroom research to enhance student learning.



The following is a listing of those donors and affiliates who during 2007 made these generous gifts and to express gratitude for their support. Thank you!

Accuracy within this Honor Roll listing of all donors for the 2007 calendar year is something the AMATYC office strives to do. If you find your information to be incorrect or if you prefer your name to be listed differently in the future, please email Beverly Vance at amatyc@amatyc.org so she can make the appropriate corrections to the Foundation database.

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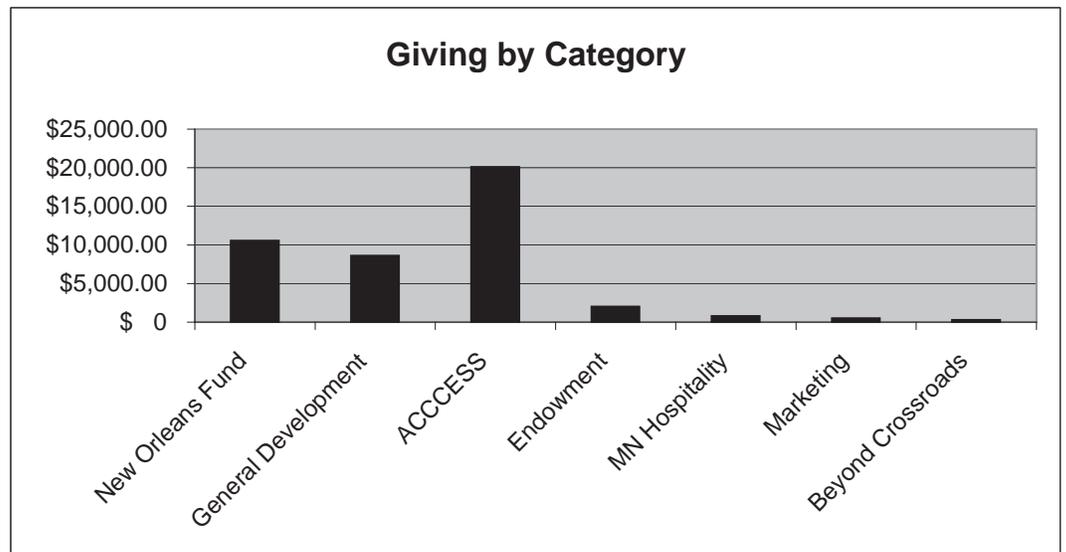
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GMATYC

The 21st Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference was held on February 15-16, 2008, at the Clarkston Campus. Thanks to the conference chair, **Andrea Hendricks**, it was one of the best conferences ever held. The conference was honored to have **Joe Gerda**, from College of the Canyons in Los Angeles, California, as the keynote speaker. Joe gave an outstanding presentation on *Getting Results in the Mathematics Classroom*, the theme of the conference.

NMMATYC

NMMATYC held its 19th annual conference May 16 and 17, 2008, at San Juan College, Farmington, NM. There were two preconference workshops: "A Mathematical Concept of Native Culture" by **Vernon Willie** and "The Eureka! Experience" by **Alan Tussy**. The Keynote address at the Friday evening banquet was given by **Tom Carson**, "Where are We Now!" On the afternoon of the 17th there was a Chaco

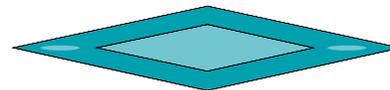
Canyon tour. There were about 80 attendees, and many interesting talks.

TMATYC

The Executive Board of TMATYC will meet at the TMTA (Tennessee Mathematics Teachers' Association) annual fall conference September 19-20. The annual spring conference was held April 18-19 at Northeast State Technical CC in Blountville, TN. News and events from the conference include:

1. Teaching Excellence Award Winner: **Bob Forrester** of Volunteer State CC.
2. Presentation of awards to the top student finishers in the annual state math competition. They recognized the top ten students in each division (there are five divisions: Developmental, Statistics, Precalculus, Calculus A, and Calculus B (finished second semester calculus or higher). The top three students in each division received cash prizes. The current state contest coordinator is **Jim Borkowski** of Jackson State CC.

3. New officers were instituted at the conference: President: **Bobby Jackson**, Past President: **Bill Weppner**, President-Elect: **Tim Britt**, and Secretary/Treasurer: **Vicki Rainey**. New appointed position: Newsletter Editor: **Marian Higginbotham**.



Focus on Affiliates

The Focus on Affiliates series will begin with the October 2008 issue of the *AMATYC News*. The News editor will be asking the AMATYC regional vice presidents for contact information for affiliates interested in being part of this series. Then the News editor will be inviting several affiliate presidents to submit an article. If you would like to be one of the first affiliates to be featured in this series, let your vice president know. This is a chance to let others know what wonderful things you are doing in your affiliate.



AMATYC Calendar of Events

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

September 26-27, 2008 NDMATYC Meeting, Chieftain Conference Center, Carrington, ND. Contact: Art Rude, arthur.rude@bsc.nodak.edu

September 27, 2008 LaMsMATYC Meeting, Eunice, LA. Contact: Lorrie Joubert, Lrandall@lsue.edu

September 27, 2008 WisMATYC Fall Conference, Univ of Wisconsin-Sheboygan County, Sheboygan, WI. Contact: George Alexancer, galexander@matcmadison.edu. Website: wis.matyc.org

October 3, 2008 ArizMATYC Fall Meeting, Eastern Arizona CC, Thatcher, AZ. Contact: Debra Green, debra.green@eac.edu. Website: www.arizmatyc.org

October 3-4, 2008 FTYCMA Meeting, Tarpon Springs, FL. Contact: Donald Ransford, dransford@edison.edu. Website: mcc1.mccfl.edu/ftycma/default.htm

October 10-11, 2008 MichMATYC Fall Conference, Delta College, University, MI. Contact: Natascha Rivet, njrivet@delta.edu. Website: www.michmatyc.org/2008conference

November 20-23, 2008 34th Annual AMATYC Conference, Washington, D.C. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

December 12-13, 2008 CMC³ Convention, Asilomar Conference Center, Monterey, CA. Contact: Larry Green, greenl@ltcc.edu

March 12-13, 2009 NCMATYC Meeting, Cape Fear CC, Wilmington, NC. Contact: Suzanne Williams, suzanne.williams@cpcc.edu

November 12-15, 2009 35th Annual AMATYC Conference, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

November 11-14, 2010 36th Annual AMATYC Conference, Boston, MA. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

November 10-13, 2011 37th Annual AMATYC Conference, Austin, TX. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

November 8-11, 2012 38th Annual AMATYC Conference, Jacksonville, FL. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

October 31-November 3, 2013 39th Annual AMATYC Conference, Anaheim, CA. Contact: AMATYC Office, amatyc@amatyc.org

There is now an online form that will enable members to update or add affiliate conference information. You can access the form at www.amatyc.org/affiliates/affiliates-conferences.htm.

In Memory of Dawn Schmidt

AMATYC and MichMATYC lost a good friend on June 2, 2008, with the passing of Dawn Schmidt, Mathematics and Computer Science Division faculty



member and past division chair at Delta College (MI), at her home after a courageous fight with cancer. Dawn began her career at Delta College in 1978, working in the Teaching Learning Center and as an adjunct instructor in the Mathematics Division. In 1984, Dawn became a full-time member of the Math and Computer Science Division. Dawn served as Division Chair from 2002 until 2008. Dawn served as President of MichMATYC from 1989-1991. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

Honor a Colleague or Yourself—Submit a Teaching Excellence Award Nomination!

Don't let the **December 8, 2008**, deadline sneak up on you. You don't need to wait until the last minute to identify a colleague who is an outstanding teacher for the 2009 AMATYC Teaching Excellence (TE) Award and help that person complete the Nomination Packet or submit a packet for yourself! Up to eight AMATYC members will be honored at the 2009 Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

Shortly, all AMATYC members will receive information in the mail about the TE Award, outlining the criteria of the award: good teaching, support of students, professional development activities, interaction with colleagues, and service to the profession. Nominees must be AMATYC members whose primary assigned duties must be delivering instruction in an associate degree-granting program and institution.

The Nomination Form and a FAQ page are also available at www.amatyc.org. Visit the website today, complete the Nomination Packet, and send nine (9) copies to President-Elect Rob Farinelli, 626 Currant Court, La Plata, MD 20646. If you have any questions, contact Rob at rfarinelli@csm.edu or your AMATYC regional vice-president.

WARNING: AMATYC may cease to exist on November 15, 2009!

Now that you are paying attention, to exist any organization needs members and volunteers! AMATYC is no exception. The incoming Executive Board that will be elected in 2009 takes office on November 15, 2009. Long before that date, the Nominating Committee needs nominations to offer the membership a slate with two names for each office.

Nominations can begin with a recommendation from you, the membership, or a self-nomination. Recommendations may start with an email to one of the members of the committee or with you convincing the person to step forward.

The available positions include President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and eight Regional Vice Presidents. Any of these positions offer the opportunity of a lifetime: the chance to develop life-long friendships, the chance to serve your profession, the chance to expand your professional horizons.

For more information, please visit the "Get Involved" link at the AMATYC website, www.amatyc.org. If your questions are not answered, please contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee (listed at the website).

Become involved in AMATYC. Join a committee. For a complete listing of committees and contact information visit www.amatyc.org and then click on the Get Involved button and choose Committee.

JOIN AMATYC

BECOME A MEMBER OF AMATYC TODAY

CONTACT:

AMATYC OFFICE
5983 MACON COVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38134
901.333.4643 FAX 901.333.4651
amatyc@amatyc.org www.amatyc.org



Grant's Corner

There is a new offering for grant proposals under the National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) program. There are now small grants (\$100,000-\$150,000) available. These would be an excellent way to test the waters before applying for the major ATE grants.

There is still time to submit Poster Session applications for the 34th Annual Conference in Washington, DC this coming November. This year the Poster Session is accepting applications concerning successful grant proposals submitted to any funding agency. Please contact Mary Kay Abbey (marykay.abbey@montgomerycollege.edu) for an application.

"Young man, in mathematics you don't understand things, you just get used to them."

John von Neumann

The **AMATYC News** is the official newsletter of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges and is published five times per year in January, March, May, August, and October. Your articles, announcements, comments, and letters to the Editor are welcome. Submit all materials by November 27, February 1, April 1, June 1, and September 1 for the respective issues.

Address changes should be sent to:

AMATYC Office
Southwest Tennessee Community College
5983 Macon Cove
Memphis, TN 38134
Phone 901.333.4643 • Fax 901.333.4651
• amatyc@amatyc.org

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Kathryn Kozak
AMATYC News Editor
Coconino CC
2800 S. Lone Tree Rd.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
Phone 928.226.4277 Fax 928.226.4118
AMATYCNews@amatyc.org

We Need Your Help!!!!

Manuscripts are needed for AMATYC's new journal that will debut in Spring 2009. Get in on the ground floor by submitting educational articles of particular interest to two-year college faculty.

Submit articles to:

Beverly Vance
AMATYC
5983 Macon Cove
Memphis, TN 38134
amatyc@amatyc.org

Potential topics include:

- Developmental Mathematics
- Placement and Assessment
- Mathematics Intensive
- Teacher Prep
- Innovative Pedagogical Strategies
- Division/Department Issues
- Mathematics for AAS programs

Current author guidelines can be found at www.amatyc.org.

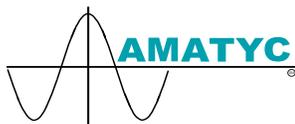
Dates To Remember!

Teaching Excellence Award
Nominations Deadline:
December 8, 2008

Call for Nominations for
AMATYC Board
Deadline:
February 1, 2009

Application to Host a Refocused
College Algebra Traveling Workshop:
As Soon As Possible
www.TheRightStuff.AMATYC.org/

**For more information visit
www.amatyc.org**



Kathryn Kozak, Editor
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