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Outdoor Activities in Austin

by Honey Kirk and Anne Praderas

In the last newsletter, readers learned about the history of Austin, and things for history buffs to enjoy while visiting. In this issue, the reader will be given an image of life outdoors in Austin. The next issue will focus on the amazing nightlife.

Austin's natural environment is one of the main reasons people love this city. Austin is nestled deep in the heart of Texas, surrounded by rolling hills to the west, and piney woods to the east. While there are 18,900 acres of parkland and natural preserves in Austin, the most noticeable natural feature is the Colorado River. The Colorado River (Texas's own—not the same one that cuts through the Grand Canyon!) cuts right through the center of the city, and much of the city land on either side of it is designated parkland. Because there are dams



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USAMO



AMATYC President Rob Farinelli with the 2011 USAMO Awardees

AMATYC is a sponsoring society of the USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), a series of examinations given to four hundred thousand high school students across the nation. Two hundred ninety-three 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.

The top 12 students this year are (in alphabetical order) Wenyu Cao, Michael Gao, Benjamin Gunby, Xiaoyu He, Ravi Jagadeesan, Spencer Kwon, Mitchell Lee, Ray Li, Evan O'Dorney, Marke Selke, David Yang, and Joy Zheng. This year, there was

a tie for first place. Both Evan O'Dorney and David Yang had perfect scores and earned top honors.

In Washington, DC, President Rob Farinelli and Sandy Poinsett, chair of the Mathematics Intensive/College Mathematics committee, represented AMATYC at a reception for the USAMO awardees and their families at the MAA Carriage House on June 5, and at the Awards Ceremonies at the Carnegie Institute for Science on June 6. The awards dinner was hosted by John P. Holdren, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

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President's Message



Wide World of Mathematics

Rob Farinelli
CC of Allegheny County
Monroeville, PA

Here is an obscure trivia question for you – who was Vinko Bogataj? I have no doubt that you have seen him before. Vinko was the ski jumper who symbolized the “agony of defeat” on Wide World of Sports. Of course the flip side to the agony of defeat was the “thrill of victory.” In teaching mathematics, especially developmental mathematics, we all feel the thrill of victory (hopefully, many times) and the agony of defeat (hopefully, only a few times). More importantly, we want our students to feel the thrill of victory!

As I wrote in this column one year ago, our colleges and campuses need to have policies in place which promote student success. These policies should include placement testing, course scheduling, late registration, course repeats, and advising. These policies will allow you to see some modest gains in student success; however, the most important gains will be seen when changes occur in the classroom. What types of instructional strategies are being implemented in your department or your classroom to improve student success? Chapter 4 of *Beyond Crossroads* has a plethora of information on student learning and the learning environment to help all of us.

The number of students who test into developmental mathematics accounts for a very large percentage of enrollment total of students in our mathematics classes. This in itself creates a problem for colleges as it strains faculty, budgets, and resources. It is compounded by the fact that many students who start in developmental mathematics never complete a college level mathematics course. Even worse, many never even enroll in a developmental mathematics course. Developmental mathematics should not be the “roach motel” of colleges – students get in, but they don’t get out. Many of these students have studied some of this material before. According to Uri Treisman, saying it louder and faster will not make them “get it” this time around.

The bigger question that we need to ask ourselves as the educators of these students is what type of mathematics is appropriate for many of the students in our classes? Since most of us went through the “traditional preparation for calculus” track in high school or college, there is a slight bias pulling us in that direction. For students in STEM fields, the traditional path to calculus is not a bad path (though I think it could be tweaked a little). However, many of our students are not STEM bound and only need the mathematics necessary for their general education requirements. Too often these are the students who equate “algebra” with simply symbol manipulation that has no relevance in real life. They really need to see how “algebraic ways of thinking” can be very relevant to what they may pursue in their careers or use in their daily lives. These different ways of thinking – intertwined with concepts of numeracy, proportionality, and problem-solving, among other things – can lead to a rich course in the appreciation of mathematics, not something to be feared. Topics should be connected throughout the course and ideas presented in a holistic approach. Currently, many students see mathematics as a bunch of discrete topics, rules, processes and procedures connected together by an exam.

Now is the time to think about what the appropriate mathematics course should look like for our students. It is not an easy job to do and I know that many of you have undertaken this enormous task. However, faculty must take the lead on this initiative. As educators who are invested in the concept of professional development, you are the leaders at your campuses. Do not get deflated when the work starts to get rough – because it will!! Do not feel like you are falling off the ski jump week in and week out. Do not let yourself or your college slip back into the mindset that “we’ve always done it this way.” That may be true, but your results are not any better now than they were 25 years ago! There are many people working on very promising projects. Get aboard that train and make the path fit what is unique to your college and to your students.

This will not be an easy or a short process, but it will be a worthwhile process to undertake. Students come to us with the hopes of starting out or starting over. Let’s help them experience the thrill of victory!

AMATYC's Executive Director



At the spring board meeting, the AMATYC Executive Board hired AMATYC's first Executive Director. There were many, many talented and qualified candidates who applied for this position, but the Board chose Patrick Winters to hold this new position. In his role as Executive Director, Pat will define best practices and standards of excellence, and then demonstrate how these standards can be achieved and maintained in the organization. He will also assist the leadership in determining how effectively the association is functioning and provide recommendations for improvement of overall operations.

Pat is a career association executive having served several associations and professional societies in a 25-year career. He has been awarded “Association Executive of the Year” by his peers at the Colorado Society of Association Executives and while with the Denver Building Owners and Managers Association, that group was awarded “Association of the Year” in international competition. He is active in the American Society of Association Executives Peer Review Program and was a contributor to the ASAE publication *Managing Association Turnarounds*.

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Austin 2011

2011 Conference Program Highlights

by Wanda Garner, Program Coordinator

Make plans now to join your colleagues November 10-13, 2011, in Austin, TX, for AMATYC's 37th Annual Conference. Thursday's opening session address by Kenneth M. Golden, Professor of Mathematics and Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering at the University of Utah, will explore "Climate Change and Mathematics of Sea Ice." On Saturday, following the annual awards breakfast, Terri M. Manning, Associate Vice President for Institutional Research and Director of the Center for Applied Research, Central Piedmont CC, Charlotte, NC, will discuss "The Millennial Generation: The Next Generation in College Enrollment."

Additional conference events not to be missed include:

- ❖ "New Pathways to Success: Lessons Learned from Statway and Quantway" by invited speaker, Philip (Uri) Treisman;
 - ❖ "Failure 'IS' an Option that Leads to Success" by invited speaker, Jerry Woodfill, Apollo 13's warning system engineer;
 - ❖ "Mathematical Issues in the Transition from High School to College" by J. Michael Shaughnessy, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics;
 - ❖ "Elementary Mathematics Specialists Certification: Building Momentum" by Marilyn Strutchens, President of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators;
 - ❖ "NADE Certification: An Overview" by Linda Thompson and Gladys Shaw, members of the National Association for Developmental Education's Certification Council;
 - ❖ Themed session, "Precalculus, Calculus, and Beyond;"
 - ❖ Themed session, "Aspects of Placement and Assessment;"
 - ❖ Themed session, "Innovative Teaching and Learning;"
 - ❖ Themed session, "Best Practices in Teacher Preparation;"
 - ❖ The "Division/Department Chairs' Colloquium;"
 - ❖ Updates and information on several redesign efforts including Quantway, Statway, New Life, and other system-wide efforts. Find out what your colleagues are trying, what is working, and how to bring change to your campus;
 - ❖ An outstanding Poster Session filled with unique ideas;
 - ❖ Friendly competition in the "Faculty Math League Contest" scheduled this year immediately following the Friday morning regional meetings but before sessions begin so that attendees may participate without missing sessions and workshops;
 - ❖ Several sharing sessions including a session for affiliate leaders, and sessions for those interested in placement and assessment, mathematics intensive courses, mathematics applications, or innovative teaching techniques;
 - ❖ 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 37th Annual Conference in Austin, TX.

>> *Winters, Continued from page 2*

Pat is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), holds an undergraduate degree from Illinois State University, Masters in Public Administration studies at the University of Colorado, and is a graduate of the Institute of Organization Management (IOM) at the University of Notre Dame.

He is a Capacity Builder member of the Standards for (Non-Profit) Excellence Institute, was appointed to the Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence Program Board of Examiners and was recently elected to the American National Standards Institute Personnel Certification Accreditation Committee.

Conference Program Coordinator Search

by Jim Roznowski

AMATYC conference attendance as a percent of general membership is the envy of other professional associations. What keeps bringing our members back? I would bet a large part of the answer is the quality of our conference program. Exciting speakers, workshops, innovative ideas, panels with lively discussions, and strands of interest to the broad scope of our participants are all necessary ingredients of a stimulating program. Numerous people work hard to make the conferences so enticing. One of the people who is responsible for preparing a successful conference program is AMATYC's Program Coordinator. AMATYC is searching for an individual to take on the great work of our current Program Coordinator, Wanda Garner, Cabrillo College.

The incoming Program Coordinator will "shadow" the current Program Coordinator during 2012. This shadowing experience includes a site refresh visit to Anaheim, site of the 2013 conference, and a March meeting in Memphis to coordinate the Jacksonville program. The actual appointment as Program Coordinator would begin January 1, 2013, and run for three years.

The Program Coordinator's duties require attention year-round, but are especially time intensive in February and March prior to the conference. Work on publications, in which the Program Coordinator participates, occurs during the summer. This position requires attention to details, strong editing skills, and extensive familiarity with the AMATYC conference.

A complete list of duties and responsibilities can be found at www.amatyc.org. If you have questions about the position or just need more information, please contact Jim Roznowski, AMATYC President-Elect. Applicants should send a letter of interest and vitae to Jim Roznowski, AMATYC President-Elect, jroznows@harpercollege.edu, Avanté Center Y, Y103A, Harper College, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, IL 60067.

>> *USAMO, Continued from page 1*

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 Amsterdam, the Netherlands 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 University of Nebraska-Lincoln training for the IMO.

Austin 2011

Conference Corner!

by Keven Dockter, Conference Coordinator

It is no understatement when I say that I get excited by the Annual AMATYC Conference. Since attending my first conference, to last fall in Boston, I simply love the energy that permeates an AMATYC conference. Energy is created when one attends a great session or during a meeting with old friends. It is very enjoyable to see people walking around with smiles on their faces and energized by colleagues who inspire you to be a better teacher.

In my role as Conference Coordinator this excitement takes on new meaning. When people enjoy the conference I know the hard work put forth by the conference committee has been worth the effort. Even though I feel each conference is outstanding, the conference committee and I are looking for ways to make your experience better. We thoroughly read the conference evaluations and look for ways to meet the needs expressed in the evaluations. For example, in Boston it was very clear that people were not satisfied with the food. Neither were we. So in Austin we are going to make a few changes. On Friday morning before the regional meetings we will be having a buffet breakfast. For the Saturday Awards Breakfast we are working with the Hilton Austin to add a more regional flavor to the meal. Since our conference moves around the country, why not experience some of the local food?

Not only will you see a change in the food, but you will also notice that there will be more LCD data projectors in the meeting rooms. None of us are satisfied if we do not have technology in the classroom to help us reach students. Why would we be satisfied with less as we present to our colleagues and show them what we do in the classroom? Hopefully these additions will help you do that.

Some of you may feel these changes are very minor. While they may not get noticed by everyone, they are important changes which affect all who attend the conference. And these changes are being implemented without raising the conference registration rate! In fact, for Austin in November and Jacksonville in 2012, the registration rate has been reduced!

It is always the conference committee's goal to offer the best possible conference for the members of AMATYC. We have some very exciting locations to look forward to in the future. This past year the organization has signed three contracts for future locations to take advantage of the down economy. Industry experts predict that the cost of hotel rooms will begin increasing in 2012 so AMATYC's leadership wanted to be proactive. Upcoming locations are the downtown Denver Sheraton - 2016; Town and Country Resort in San Diego - 2017, and Disney's Coronado Springs Convention Center in Orlando - 2018.

I hope you are getting excited about the Austin conference. Stop me, introduce yourself, and say hi when you are attending!

Presiders Needed!

by Darlene Winnington, Presider Chair

Due to an increase in the number of sessions being offered at the 37th AMATYC Annual Conference, November 10-13, 2011, in Austin, TX, there is an urgent need for additional presiders.

Serving as a presider is a great way to become involved in the conference program and in AMATYC. As a presider you play an important role in the success of the conference. Your duties include seeing that sessions start and end on time, introducing the speaker(s), and distributing, collecting, and summarizing the session evaluation forms.

At conference registration in Austin, you will receive a presider packet that includes all the necessary materials for your presider assignment – speaker introductions, a step-by-step procedure list for first-time presiders, session evaluation forms, and a presider summary sheet.

It is not too late to submit your presider application. Go to the AMATYC homepage, www.amatyc.org. Once there, click on 37th Annual Conference, and then click on the Call for Presiders button in the far left column. Finally, click on Presider Application to complete and submit your presider application. If you prefer, simply contact Darlene Winnington at dwinning@dtcc.edu.

>> *Austin, Continued from page 1*

both upstream and downstream from the downtown portion of the river, it is referred to as a lake. "Town Lake" was re-named "Lady Bird Lake" in 2007 as a tribute to former First Lady Lady Bird Johnson, because of her work to beautify the land around what was once considered a polluted reservoir in the 1960's. The resulting modern-day gem provides Austin residents and visitors with multiple opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. There are several places to rent canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, and stand-up surf boards for folks who like to get on the water. (Due to significant undercurrents, it is not safe to swim in most parts of the river.) Stroll along the lake-side esplanade and read a book on a park bench. There are also ten miles of hike-and-bike trails surrounding Lady Bird Lake (www.texasoutside.com/townlake.htm), which is easily accessible from the conference hotel.

Feeding into Lady Bird Lake from the west is the natural spring-fed waterway known as Barton Creek. It too has been dammed off in two places to form the crystal-clear waters Barton Springs Pool. Barton Springs Pool is a 1000-foot long urban swimming hole located in the heart of Austin's largest park, Zilker Park (www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker/). The pool is open year-round, with water temperatures maintaining an average of 68°F. These springs, the fourth largest natural springs in Texas, were formed millions of years ago when the Balcones Fault created a land shift. Native Americans called these the Sacred Springs, and soaked in these waters to heal their wounds. Spanish friars set up camp here on their way to build the missions in San Antonio. Zilker Park is a lovely place to explore – and only a ten-minute cab ride from the hotel. Here you will find the botanical gardens, a disc golf course, the Umlauf Sculpture Gardens, and the Zilker Zephyr (a mini-train that circumnavigates the 360-acre park). Fun for all ages!

Austin is one of the fittest cities in America because the residents love to get outside and play. The average daytime temperature in November is 70°F, perfect for getting some fresh air when you need a break from the conference. Come chat with the friendly local folks in the conference hospitality area to get more details on these and many other fun things to do outdoors in Austin.

Professional Development

Travel Budget Got You Down?

Let AMATYC Bring a Workshop to You!

by Maria Andersen, Professional Development Coordinator

The typical AMATYC Traveling Workshop is a one-day event where an expert speaker comes to your campus or conference to facilitate a learning experience for your math faculty. For what it would cost to send one faculty member to a conference out-of-state, you can organize a day of learning for up to 30 faculty instead. The cost of an AMATYC Traveling Workshop is \$750 for the speaker plus the cost of travel, lodging, and meals. You organize the logistics (a meeting place, food, copies, and technology) and the facilitator will work with you to organize the perfect day of learning for your event. Your college is responsible for all costs of a Traveling Workshop

If you are interested in bringing a Traveling Workshop to your campus

or conference, your first step will be to choose a workshop strand (see below) and some potential dates. You'll receive a list of potential facilitators and a short CV with their specific areas of expertise so that you can choose the best person for your event. Once a facilitator is chosen, you will work with them to set a specific schedule and breakout sessions.

AMATYC Traveling Workshop

Strands:

- *Beyond Crossroads*
- College Algebra
- Developmental Math
- Math Across the Curriculum
- Statistics
- Teacher Prep
- Math and Technology

While Traveling Workshops are a bargain, the Statistics Traveling Workshops are an especially great deal this year because AMATYC has partnered with CAUSE on a grant to conduct eight Statistics workshops on teaching Introductory Statistics at no charge (that's right ... FREE). If your state affiliate conference or a coalition of colleges in your state would like to host a Statistics Traveling Workshop, please contact me with some potential dates for such an event.

For more information on AMATYC Traveling Workshops, visit the website at www.tw.amatyc.org/

What's Up with the AMATYC Webinars?

by Maria Andersen, Professional Development Coordinator

AMATYC has gotten into webinars in a big way in 2011! Eight webinars have already been hosted this year and every one has been recorded and archived at www.amatyc.org/publications/webinars:

- "Unleash the Power of the Tablet PC," Fred Feldon
- "Lights, Camera, Action Research," April Ström
- "Guided Reinvention of Sequence Convergence," Michael Oertman and Craig Swinyard
- "Mathematics of Video Games," Ian Schreiber
- "What can I do with Wolfram Alpha?," Bruce Yoshiwara

- "The Common Core: What You Should Know," Hank Kepner
- "Teaching Developmental Mathematics: It's not just about the content," Maryanne Anthony and Lynn Marecek
- "Making Calculus Come Alive using Dynamic Visualization (in 3D)," Paul Seeburger

AMATYC strives to ensure that the webinars involve audience interaction and all speakers are trained on how to use the webinar platform. The webinar evaluations have been fabulous with close to 100% of participants indicating that they would attend another AMATYC webinar.

Webinars are hosted by the AMATYC committees and coordinated by the Professional Development Coordinator, with topics and speakers chosen by the committees. As you attend conferences and events over the next year, please be on the lookout for outstanding topics and speakers that can be brought to all AMATYC members through the webinar series. If you have a suggestion for a webinar, please contact the appropriate committee. You can find a listing of all the committees (and contact info) here: www.amatyc.org/committees

If you haven't been able to attend any of the live webinars, check out some of the recordings!

Mathematics is the art of giving the same name to different things.

-- J. H. Poincare

Counting on Your Electronic Vote In the 2011 AMATYC Election!

by Rikki Blair

Regular (voting) members will be sent an email on September 15 with the link to “register” to vote and to the ballot for the election of AMATYC Officers for the 2011-2013 Executive Board. All active regular and life members as of May 31, 2011, are eligible to vote. Only one email address will be active for the voting process. Be sure that your primary email address is correct in the AMATYC database.

Check your email address in the AMATYC database before September 1, 2011.

- ✓ Go to the AMATYC database and confirm your personal contact information, especially your email address immediately.
 - Go to www.amatyc.org and click on the link to the “New Membership Database” under News/Highlights.
 - Follow the instructions on the database page. You will either be logged in already or asked to type in your email address that you are using for your AMATYC membership.
 - Retrieve your password from the email instructions.
 - Click on “My Information” tab in the top left corner of the menu bar.
 - Review your personal information and “Edit Information,” if necessary.
- ✓ Report any login problems to Beverly Vance at bvance@amatyc.org.

Electronic ballots for each AMATYC region will ask you to vote for one of the candidates for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Vice President for your region. Officers will be announced by an email to all AMATYC members and at the 2011 AMATYC Annual Conference in Austin, TX. Each officer takes office on January 1, 2012.

Electronic ballots must be cast between September 15, 2011, and October 9, 2011. Your vote is important, and AMATYC is counting on you to cast your vote so please take time to vote for those who will lead AMATYC for the next two years.

Questions about your membership status or voting eligibility should be directed to the AMATYC Office by email, amatyc@amatyc.org, or by phone, 901.333.6243. If you are eligible to vote and do not receive your electronic ballot by September 15, please contact the AMATYC Office.

2011-2013 AMATYC Board Election Slate

The slate of candidates below lists the candidates in alphabetical order by last name.

President-Elect

Martha Goshaw, Seminole State College (FL)
Nancy Sattler, Terra CC (OH)

Secretary

Steve Krevisky, Middlesex CC (CT)
Mary Beth Orrange, Erie CC (NY)

Treasurer

Mike Hardie, Western Nevada College (NV)
Margie Hobbs (MS)

Northeast Vice President

Alexander Atwood, Suffolk County CC (NY)
Jane D. Tanner, Onondaga CC (NY)

Central Vice President

Connie Buller, Metropolitan CC (NE)
Nicole Lang, North Hennepin CC (MN)

Mid-Atlantic Vice President

Chris Allgyer, Mountain Empire CC (VA)
Oiyin Pauline Chow, Harrisburg Area CC (PA)

Southwest Vice President

Kathryn (Kate) Kozak, Coconino CC (AZ)
David Price, Tarrant County College (TX)

Southeast Vice President

Sharon Clark, Pearl River CC (MS)
Annette Cook, Shelton State CC (AL)

Northwest Vice President

Stefan Baratto, Clackamas CC (OR)

Midwest Vice President

George Alexander, Madison Area
Technical College (WI)
James Ham, Delta College (MI)

West Vice President

Greg Daubenmire, Las Positas College (CA)
Bruce Yoshiwara, Los Angeles Pierce
College (CA)

Future AMATYC Conferences

- 2012 Jacksonville, FL
November 8-11
- 2013 Anaheim, CA
October 31-November 3
- 2014 Nashville, TN
November 13-16
- 2015 New Orleans, LA
November 19-22
- 2016 Denver, CO
November 17-20
- 2017 San Diego, CA
November 9-12
- 2018 Orlando, FL
November 15-18



The **AMATYC News** is the official newsletter of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges and is published four times per year in January, April, August, and October. Your articles, announcements, comments, and letters to the Editor are welcome. Submit all materials by November 27, March 1, June 1, and August 15 for the respective issues.

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Student Mathematics League

by Susan R. Strickland

Both rounds of the Student Mathematics League (SML) competition have been completed and the final results are in.

Final Team Results:

1. West Valley College, CA
2. Santa Monica College, CA
3. East Los Angeles College, CA
4. Los Angeles City College, CA
5. Mt. San Antonio College, CA
6. Pasadena City College, CA
7. Fullerton College, CA
8. Bellevue College, WA
9. Diablo Valley College, CA
10. De Anza College, CA

Final Individual Results:

1. Brendan Fletcher, Central Piedmont CC, NC
2. (tie) Dang Minh, Mission College, CA
Che-Cheng Lien, North Seattle CC, WA
4. Kevin Mu, West Valley College, CA
5. Zihao Yan, Pasadena City College, CA
6. David Wang, West Valley College, CA
7. (tie) Seong Ham, Queensborough CC, NY
Max Flores, Brookdale CC, NJ
9. (tie) Peter Jiang, Schoolcraft College, MI
Chan Pong Lei, Diablo Valley College, CA
11. Colleen Nelson, Fullerton College, CA

Top Schools and Students by Region:

- Northeast:** Borough of Manhattan CC, NY
Seong Ham (Queensborough CC, NY)
- Mid-Atlantic:** Brookdale CC, NJ
Max Flores (Brookdale CC, NJ)
- Southeast:** Central Piedmont CC, NC
Brendan Fletcher (Central Piedmont CC, NC)
- Midwest:** Schoolcraft College, MI
Peter Jiang (Schoolcraft CC, MI)
- Central:** Normandale CC, MN
Tung Le (Metropolitan CC, NE)
- Southwest:** Austin CC, TX
Joshua Donbrowsky (Tarrant County College, TX)
- Northwest:** Bellevue College, WA
Che-Cheng Lien (North Seattle CC, WA)
- West:** West Valley College, CA
Dang Minh (Mission College, CA)

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. You can read about the SML on the webpage at www.amatyc.org/SML or email susanst@csmd.edu with any questions. The dates for next year's competition are Friday, October 14 through Saturday, October 29, 2011 (Round 1), and Friday, February 17 through Saturday, March 10, 2012 (Round 2). Register your college through AMATYC's new database system event site at www.amatyc.org/SML/index.htm.

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 that will 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 sml@amatyc.org.

See you in Austin!

Update on Statway™ and Quantway™

by Julie Phelps and Jack Rotman
(AMATYC Pathway Liaisons)

in collaboration with

Gay Clyburn

(Associate Vice President, Public
Affairs with the Carnegie Foundation
for the Advancement of Teaching)

AMATYC continues to collaborate with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin on both Statway™ and Quantway™.

Latest News

The Summer Institute

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's Quantway™ and Statway™ Summer Institute was in mid-July. Teams from 30 colleges in eight states gathered in Palo Alto, California, to further develop these two newly designed mathematics pathways. Carnegie's aim in this project is to significantly increase the proportion of students, who, within one year of continuous community college enrollment, are mathematically prepared to succeed in further academic study. While there are other objectives, the primary Institute goal is for faculty to feel comfortable delivering lessons to developmental math students this fall for Statway™, and for Quantway™ in spring 2012. For more information on the programs, check out the Carnegie website at carnegiefoundation.org/developmental-math.

Launching of the Pathways Blog

Carnegie has launched a new Math Pathways blog at pathways.carnegiefoundation.org to share information about Carnegie's work to create pathways for student success in developmental education in community colleges and will make connections between this work and that of others concerned with student struggle. The blog is managed by Gay Clyburn at Carnegie and Julie Phelps at Valencia College and will include updates on the work, information on publications and articles informing the work, and news about what Carnegie is learning. The latest post, "A Brief History of the Quantitative Literacy Movement: Arithmetic and Algebra Skills

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Committee Reports

Developmental Mathematics Committee (DMC)

by Kathleen Almy

The DMC is shining a spotlight on educators who teach developmental mathematics and showcasing some of their techniques. In this issue, George Woodbury describes his methods for creating a community of learners.

Teaching developmental mathematics is quite challenging as many students have little confidence and high levels of anxiety. How do you reach these students? How do you get them to the point where they experience their first success in mathematics? In George's opinion it takes more than being a content expert. You must focus on the classroom atmosphere.

Successful students say that feeling connected is important to success, and George feels that you need to make that connection in the classroom where learning occurs.

In George's classes, he makes an effort to create a sense of community. If students form connections in small groups, it is his belief that it makes it easier for them to make connections with their instructor and, more importantly, the material.

The most important day of the semester is the first day, and this is the optimal time to begin building your community of learners. Form groups. Design activities to help them get to know each other. Collect surveys that will help you to get to know your students as more than a name on your roster.

There are many ways to incorporate community into your class. You can give short group quizzes, give groups time to discuss a problem before presenting the solution, ask groups to solve problems together at the board, ask groups to summarize the previous class session, or give group assignments inside (and outside) the classroom. George likes to give assignments outside of class that encourage students to be creative - "mathematician in history" posters or

newsletters. (George has samples he can share if you contact him.)

At George's college's most recent convocation, a panel of successful students made it clear that the instructor has a chance to affect success by creating a safe and comfortable classroom atmosphere. They told those in attendance that it really meant a lot to them when the instructor knew their name and showed that the instructor cared about their success. They also reported that working closely with other students inside the classroom positively impacted their performance and that having a group they could count on for support was important.

You are encouraged to focus on your classroom atmosphere and find ways to get your students to work together. Form your own community of learners. Not only can it make a positive impact on your students' success, you will find that teaching will be more enjoyable for you. Good luck!

George Woodbury teaches mathematics at the College of the Sequoias in Visalia, CA. He is also the author of several developmental math textbooks. For more information, check out George's blogarithm at georgewoodbury.com or contact him at georgew@cos.edu.

Would you like to share tips from your classroom or developmental math program? If so, contact Kathleen Almy at k.almy@rockvalleycollege.edu for more information.

Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee: Ask 10,000 Friends

by Mary Beth Orrange and Fred Feldon

The Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee (ITLC) explores new and creative ways to enhance the learning process. Each issue of the *AMATYC News* contains an innovative strategy relating to teaching as described by one of the members. In this issue, Fred Feldon from Coastline CC, describes the use of the OpenStudy website.

The typical Coastline student works full-time, has a family and, if they need help and can make it to campus, waits for tutoring can be up to an hour. Posting

a thread on the class discussion board could mean waiting for a day.

What if you had a mathematics study group with 10,000 students in it, available any time? What if those math students were rated by their peers? What if the most helpful earned medals and awards? What if everyone was motivated to teach each other, explain concepts, and form a learning community? That's the premise of OpenStudy, a Web 2.0 social learning site sponsored by Georgia Tech, the NSF, the NIH, and the Georgia Research Alliance, a for-profit business.

By the time this goes to print there will probably be 12,000 students in the math study group, maybe more. It's easily growing by a thousand students per month. The questions and answers cover a full range of math topics from grade school to graduate level. There is a math palette to insert LaTeX and you can attach images. Fred is going to incorporate OpenStudy into his teaching next semester and ask his students to evaluate the site. He's very excited about the possibilities!

Committee participation is open to all AMATYC members. To learn more about the AMATYC Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee or to be involved throughout the year, email the chair of the committee, Mary Beth Orrange, at orange@ecc.edu. The committee has established a Google site at sites.google.com/site/amatycitlc/ as another way to share information about teaching and learning issues. To find out more about AMATYC's committees, visit the website www.amatyc.org.

Mathematics for AAS Programs Committee

by Ned Shillow

Given the nature of specialized mathematics courses designed for AAS programs, the hope is that the content reflects the appropriate balance between mathematical concepts and the particular needs of the technical, business, health, fashion, and other applied areas which are requiring these courses in their programs. To that end, the question arises whether sufficient dialog takes place between the faculty in the applied disciplines and the mathematics faculty who ideally should

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Committee Reports

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be meeting their needs. In other words, do such math courses fulfill a role of greater richness than just being routine offerings?

Related to this issue, Glen Spielbauer contacted the Math for AAS Programs Committee in connection with an article he had recently submitted to the American Technical Education Association. Readers are encouraged to go to amatycaas.blogspot.com, read the content of his thoughts, and add comments of their own. Naturally, this new blog can also be used as a forum to introduce other topics of pertinent interest and discussion for math instructors at two-year colleges, with the special emphasis on relationships with AAS programs.

Meanwhile, looking forward to the 2011 AMATYC Annual Conference in Austin, conference attendees will find a sharing session presented by committee members Nan Jackson, Lasse Savola, and David Tannor entitled "Math for AAS Programs Sharing Session: Making It Real." Additional details will be found in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, planning is already underway for a six-person themed session to be sponsored by the committee at the 2012 AMATYC Annual Conference in Jacksonville. With a focus of "Authentic Applications" as the theme, the feasibility

of providing this session depends on filling a slate of presenters who are willing to share a fifteen-minute topic pertinent to the theme, and long-range planning begins now! Persons interested in getting involved with such a presentation should contact committee chair Ned Schillow at nschillow@lccc.edu to indicate their willingness to do so.

Math Intensive/College Mathematics Committee (MI/CMC)

by Sandy Poinsett

MI/CMC has had the pleasure of offering two webinars so far as part of AMATYC's initiative to continue faculty development throughout the year. It was a privilege to have Ian Schreiber share how he generates mathematics problems from video games and Paul Seeburger share with participants how Calc 3D software can enhance visualization for calculus students. You can see these webinars by going to the AMATYC website. Watch your email for upcoming webinars from all of the AMATYC committees.

A theme session entitled "Pre-calculus, Calculus, and Beyond" is planned for the 2011 AMATYC Annual Conference in Austin. This theme session will offer a variety of talks focusing on the courses

above developmental mathematics. The various talks will present ideas that can be taken back and quickly adapted to use in the classroom.

Also, MI/CMC will be hosting a sharing session with a discussion of current issues and trends in the mathematics courses above developmental, including core standards and concept assessment instruments. Anyone who has an interest in these topics is invited to share their thoughts.

Don't forget to join MI/CMC for the committee meeting. Come join this committee if you are interested in the math courses above developmental.

Hope to see you in Austin at one or all of the activities this committee has planned.

Committee participation is open to all AMATYC members. To learn more about the AMATYC Math Intensive/College Mathematics Committee or to become involved throughout the year, email the chair of the committee, Sandy Poinsett at sandrap@csm.edu. To find out more about AMATYC committees, visit www.amatyc.org.

Focus on Affiliates: TexMATYC

by Raja Khoury

More than 100 mathematicians attended the TexMATYC conference including AMATYC President-Elect James Roznowski. We were thankful to the conference speakers who came from various colleges and universities, from Texas and abroad, to present many topics from different aspects of mathematics. Marty Triola was the 2011 conference Keynote speaker. His presentation was on "Probability for Reality." Jamis Perrett from the Texas A&M University was the Statistics Workshop speaker. His presentation was on "Creating a Lively Class" and was fully funded by a National Science Foundation grant under the supervision and dedication of Patrick Averbeck of Edmonds CC, Lynnwood, WA.

TexMATYC's membership continues to grow. Thanks to all the new members who joined at the last annual business meeting in San Antonio, it now has close to 200 active members. TexMATYC stays in touch with its members through the semiannual newsletter.

Next year is going to be a very fruitful year for TexMATYC. The next annual conference will be held on March 1-3, 2012, at the Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center in Frisco, TX. Traditionally, TexMATYC grants the outstanding professor award every year and solicits members for a slate of executive board officers on even-number years who will take office on the first of June.

Texas mathematicians are looking forward to the 37th AMATYC Annual Conference in Austin, Texas on November 10-13, 2011.



From the left: Honey Kirk, Heather Gambler, Habib Far, Raja Khoury, Jim Roznowski, Paula Wilhite, Sharon Sledge, and Ed Bock

Finalists in the New AMATYC News Design

You must have noticed the new design for the News. Developing the new look has been a year-and-a-half process that included proposals from graphic arts students at two different colleges. The final decision of which design to use was difficult. The three finalists were Anne Bradt, Christian Jackson, and Jonathan Vanderhoof. AMATYC is appreciative of the work of these students. Each has their own story of what they want to do in life, why they worked on this project, and what they thought of it. Here is a little information on each of them.

Anne Bradt, Onondaga CC (NY)

"I have always been interested in science and art. I attended SUNY Geneseo majoring in biology but always knew my passion was in art and design. After graduating from Geneseo, I decided to follow up with my interests in graphic arts and started taking classes in graphics and design. I hope to find a career where I can use my talents in art and possibly with my Bio degree."

Christian Jackson, Onondaga CC (NY)

"This project was really fun and I'm glad your editor enjoyed my layout. I actually don't have a major. I'm a sports copy editor for the Syracuse Post-Standard. I take graphic design classes mostly for fun, but I've also been able to create several designs for the newspaper using what I've learned. When I think of math, I think of innovation and progressive thinking and I tried to translate that into this design. Thanks again for the positive feedback. I hope all goes well with the newsletter."

Jonathan Vanderhoof, Delta College (MI)

"I'm majoring in Computer Graphics and Design, with dreams of either getting into a design or advertising firm or possibly even creating one. This magazine was unique and fun to design because I had to take something very straightforward and logical, math, and without the use of photos, create something that would appeal to a widespread audience."

Highlights of the 2011 AMATYC Spring Board Meeting

by Pauline Chow

The AMATYC Executive Board met at the Southwest Tennessee CC in Memphis on April 30-May 2, 2011. During the meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- The following appointments were approved:
 - **Beth Edmonds** as the chair of the Placement and Assessment Committee, effective end of conference (EOC) 2011 and ending at EOC 2013.
 - **Fred Feldon** as the chair of the Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee, effective EOC 2011 and ending at EOC 2013.
- The following reappointments were approved:
 - **Linda Kodama**, Roommate Networking Director, effective immediately through EOC 2013.
 - **Louise Olshan**, Advertising Chair effective 1/1/2012.
 - **Sue Strickland**, Student Math League Coordinator for the period of 7/1/2011 to 6/30/2013.
 - **Kate Kozak**, Newsletter Editor for a term of EOC 2010 and ending at EOC 2013.
 - **Sean Simpson**, Chair of Division/Department Issues Committee, second term.
 - **Ned Schillow**, Chair of Mathematics for AAS Program Committee, second term.
 - **Sandy Poinsett**, Chair of Mathematics Intensive/College Mathematics Committee, second term.
 - **April Ström**, Chair of Research in Mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges, second term.
- Approved Research in Mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges Committee to be moved from an emerging issues committee to a full academic committee, effective at the end of conference 2011.
- Approved in concept, the position paper from the Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee (ITLC) on Proctored Testing.
- Approved Level 1 support for the NSF TUES proposal in 2011-12 and 2012-13, titled Quantitative Literacy and Reasoning Assessment (QLRA), principal investigator Eric Gaze, Director of the QR program, Bowdoin College (ME).
- Approved the early registration fee for the 2012 Annual Conference in Jacksonville to be set at \$325.
- Adopted the 2012-2017 AMATYC Strategic Plan.
- Approved to accept the terms of agreement 2011-2012 Level Partnership with National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD).
- Approved to expand AMATYC's commitment to ACCCESS to include two nights lodging for every fellow in both cohorts, beginning with the 2012 Annual Conference in Jacksonville.
- Approved a template to be used to initiate a review for AMATYC academic committees.
- Approved a motion to present to the Delegate Assembly at the Austin Conference to leave the annual dues at \$80 per year from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014.
- Revised the conference registration fee formulas effective immediately.
- Approved a slate of officers for the 2011 election of the AMATYC Board.
- Approved a Level 2 support for the NSF TUES proposal "Mathematical Voyage" for the period of January 1, 2012, to December 31, 2013.

The 2012 Mathematics Excellence Award

Call for Nominations

Nominate a Colleague Today!

Honor a colleague through an AMATYC Mathematics Excellence Award nomination. The award recognizes educators who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at the two-year college and is presented once every two years.

The Mathematics Excellence (ME) Award Committee will consider each of the nominations in accordance with the following criteria:

- 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

A nomination consists of a résumé, not to exceed three pages, and three letters in support of the nomination, one of which is a letter of nomination. At least one of the three letters should be from outside the nominee's AMATYC region. Letters of support that elaborate on qualities described in the résumé or highlight additional exemplary characteristics of the nominee are more helpful to the committee than letters that reiterate items mentioned in the résumé. In an effort to compare all candidates on the same basis, any additional materials submitted will not be considered. Incomplete nominations will not be considered.

Frequently asked questions are addressed at www.amatyc.org/awards/MathExcellence/ or for other questions, email Rikki Blair, ME Committee Chair at richelle.blair@sbcglobal.net.

Nomination packets sent by email in a PDF file must be received by Tuesday, November 1, 2011. Letters of nomination and support letters should be signed and on letterhead, when appropriate. **Email nomination packets** to Rikki Blair, ME Committee Chair at richelle.blair@sbcglobal.net.

History and Pedagogy of Mathematics (HPM) Americas Section

2011 West Coast Meeting

First Notice and Call for Papers

HPM Americas is pleased to announce a meeting on October 1-2, 2011, on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University, in San Diego, CA.

HPM seeks a variety of talks on the history of mathematics, the teaching of mathematics, and the history of teaching mathematics. Talks directly relevant to mathematics classrooms are especially welcome. Talks will be 30-40 minutes long.

Prospective speakers should send a title and abstract, as well as their own contact information, to Kathy Clark at drkclark@gmail.com.

For updated information check, and to read about past meetings, see www.hpm-americas.org.

>> Update, Continued from page 7
"Aren't Enough Any More," is by Amy Getz of the Charles A. Dana Center, a partner in this work, and Rikki Blair, AMATYC Past President. To join the mailing list for blog updates, send an email to pathways@carnegiefoundation.org.

For more information on the initiatives, participating colleges, and student outcomes, visit the Carnegie Foundation website: carnegiefoundation.org.

AMATYC

Calendar of Events

September 10, 2011 UMATYC Conference,
USU-College of Eastern Utah, Price, UT.
Contact: Henry Zwick, henryzwick@ceu.edu

September 24, 2011 WisMATYC Annual Meeting,
Marian Univ, Fond du Lac, WI.
Website: wis.matyc.org/FallConferences/index.htm

September 30-October 1, 2011 NDMATYC Conference,
Bismarck, ND. Contact: Michael Kern, michael.kern@bismarckstate.edu

October 14, 2011 ArizMATYC Fall Meeting,
Mesa CC-Red Mountain Campus, Mesa, AZ.
Website: www.arizmatyc.org

October 14, 2011 IMATYC Conference,
Des Moines Area CC-West Campus, West Des Moines, IA. Contact: vsswenson@dmacc.edu

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

November 20-23, 2014 40th Annual AMATYC Conference,
Nashville, TN. 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.

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

Kathryn Kozak, Editor
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The AMATYC Foundation Thanks Phil Cheifetz Magician Extraordinaire!

The AMATYC Foundation Board would like to honor and thank Phil Cheifetz (Nassau CC, NY) for his dedication and contribution to the AMATYC Foundation. Since 2000, Phil has entertained members with eight Magic Shows at the AMATYC annual conferences. Proceeds from the Magic Shows have increased the Foundation's General Development Fund and helped to support Foundation activities and Mini-Grants to AMATYC members. Phil, the 4th President of AMATYC and convener of the first AMATYC conference in 1974, is an active member of AMATYC and a former chair of the AMATYC Foundation. Thank you, Phil, for your magic shows (still don't know how you do the tricks).

The AMATYC Foundation's 2010-2011 fundraising campaign is in full swing in its second year. Your help is needed to reach the goal.

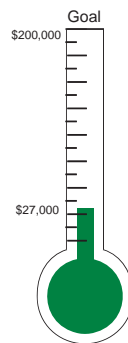


AMATYC Foundation Supports

- Mission, Goal, and Activities
- AMATYC Project ACCCESS
- Mini-Grants to Members
- Endowment Fund

All Gifts Welcomed—Small or Large

- One-Time Donation
- Sustained Giving Plan
- Bequest



Make a contribution today at www.amatyc.org/foundation. If you have any questions, contact the AMATYC Office, 901.333.6243, or contact Rikki Blair, Foundation Chair, richelle.blair@sbcglobal.net.

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