

# MichMATYC Sum-Times



Two-Year College Mathematics in Michigan

Edited by Jack Rotman, Lansing CC

February 2012

## MichMATYC 2012 Conference

at  
Monroe County Community  
College

October 5 and 6 (Friday, Saturday)

Watch for further details!

### OhioMATYC has invited us!

Our friends in Ohio have invited us to join them at their meeting this April, and to consider submitting a proposal to present.

Conference is April 20 – 21, at Maumee State Park (near Toledo).

Proposals to present (deadline is February 29, 2012); use the form at

[http://ohiomatyc.org/index.php?p=1\\_27\\_Speaker-Proposal-Form](http://ohiomatyc.org/index.php?p=1_27_Speaker-Proposal-Form)

For more information, see their web page at

[http://ohiomatyc.org/index.php?p=1\\_11](http://ohiomatyc.org/index.php?p=1_11)

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### MichMATYC “Job Board”

It’s the time of year when some institutions will have positions to fill ... MichMATYC can get help get the word out. To have a position posted on our web site, send information to the web site ‘dude’ – Jack Rotman, at [rotmanj@lcc.edu](mailto:rotmanj@lcc.edu)

The job board is at  
<http://michmatyc.org/jobboard.html>

## News from AMATYC

In case you don't already know ... AMATYC has an active webinar program, as part of the Professional Development program directed by Michigan's Maria Andersen (Muskegon CC).

The next webinar deals with online classes and testing (February 7, 2012), and recent topics have included calculus as well as technology.

For more information on the webinars, go to <http://www.amatyc.org/publications/webinars/index.html>

NOTE: You need to be a member of AMATYC to sign up for a webinar. However, after the webinar, the video file is available for download by anybody.

## MICHMATYC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AND TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

Consider your students and colleagues ... nominate them for the scholarship or award.

Forms and further details are available on our web site at <http://michmatyc.org/awards.html>

### **Brief Report from "MichMATYC 2011" conference**

By Jack Rotman, chair of the planning team at Lansing CC

Registrations received:	159
Donations to scholarship fund:	\$385
Friday social attendance:	46
Friday professional development:	55
(participants)	

The planning team appreciates all the support our colleagues provided – especially those who shared expertise by providing a session at the conference last October. With a start provided by Leonard "Lenny" Euler (Pete Wildman), how could we lose?

Thanks, everybody!

We remember a colleague ... from Oakland Community College

I'm sorry to report that Nancy Williams passed away Dec 31, 2011 after a battle with cancer.

Nancy was a past president of MichMATYC. (1985-1987)

Here is the obituary information from the funeral home: Nancy Sue WILLIAMS of Rochester; passed peacefully on December 31, 2011 at 66 years of age. Nancy was born and raised in Pontiac, a graduate of Pontiac Northern High School, Oakland University and the University of Washington. She taught mathematics at Oakland Community College for over 30 years. Nancy is preceded in death by her mother Betty Williams. Survived by her special friend Sharon Backstrom, father Paul W. Williams, brother Jon (Cynthia) Williams, sister Diane (Douglas) Ingamells, nephew Dennis (Tamara) Ingamells, niece Lisa (Bradford) Sippy and four grand-nieces.

Janet Peart

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

OHIOMATYC & MICHMATYC JOINT CONFERENCE

PLACE MAUMEE BAY STATE PARK DATE APRIL 20 – 21

[HTTP://OHIOMATYC.ORG/INDEX.PHP?P=1\\_11](http://OHIOMATYC.ORG/INDEX.PHP?P=1_11)

MICHMAA & MICHMATYC SPRING CONFERENCE 2012

PLACE SAGINAW VALLEY STATE DATE MAY 4 – 5

[HTTP://MATH.WAYNE.EDU/~ISAKSEN/CONFERENCE/12MICHMAA/](http://MATH.WAYNE.EDU/~ISAKSEN/CONFERENCE/12MICHMAA/)

MICHMATYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

PLACE MONROE COUNTY CC DATE OCTOBER 5-6

<http://michmatyc.org/>

AMATYC 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2012

PLACE JACKSONVILLE, FL DATE NOVEMBER 8 TO 11

<http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2012Jacksonville/>

## Campus News

### **Alpena Community College** (Rep: Daniel Rothe)

**Alpena Community College** begins this semester with a dip in enrollment after the big increases last year. We started offering Intermediate Algebra online taught by Kristen Berles. Precalc is also in development as a possible online class taught by Meghan Cameron. Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society inducted six new members this fall. They went on an end of the semester trip to the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at MSU. They enjoyed the tour and also had time to make brief stops at the Capital building and MSU museum. Some of our students even took pictures with some peace protestors on the capitol lawn. Since we are from the “far north”, this was a new sight for them. We look forward to helping the department host the regional Science Olympiad Tournament in March.

### **Delta College** (Rep: Frances Lichtman)

Jim Ham has been elected as the Midwest Vice President of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). Phoebe Lutz and Steve Rosin have been awarded the Robert DeVinney Endowed Teaching Chair for their proposal “Mathematica and More: Making Mathematics Matter”. Eric Wiesenauer together with Connie Barber, Julia Fogarty, and Barb Handley-Miller have been awarded the SunGuard Endowed Teaching Chair for their proposal, “Start Here, Go Anywhere: Widening our Developmental Students’ Horizons and Academic Goals”. Katrina Nichols and Trish O’Connor were selected to participate in the Global skills for College Completion Project, a national research project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Only 26 math and English faculty were selected from a pool of college president and division chair nominations across the nation.

The Mathematics Division looks forward to hosting the Delta College Middle School Mathematics Competition on Saturday, March 24.

### **Henry Ford Community College** (Rep: Jeff Morford)

*Rust Belt Ruminations from Henry Ford Community College:*

The College enrollment here has leveled off. We are still up nearly 50% in student head count from a few years ago, however. The Division itself has settled into its new space on campus. Our classroom designed to include easier access to technology and better designed student workspaces is now in use.

Jennifer LaRose, Nahla Haidar and Rama Chidambaram from Henry Ford Community College continue their work in the Galileo Leadership Consortium for the academic years 2011 and 2012. The mission of Galileo Leader Consortium is to advance the development of teacher leadership to ensure high levels of learning for all.

Math faculty at Henry Ford Community College have also successfully organized various lesson study groups in intermediate algebra classes. The objective of lesson study is to improve teaching systematically by team work and classroom observation.

Jennifer LaRose did a poster session at this year’s AMATYC conference as part of Project ACCESS. Her intermediate algebra classes got a small amount of extra credit to do online practice tests. 70% of the students attempted the extra work and while the size of the data set is small it seemed to show increased test scores for those who did the extra work.

The College is entering the last year of its Achieve the Dream grant. This semester we have changed our MPASS (Math Practice and Supplemental Sessions) program to give more students access and help make it scale up better. MPASS is now essentially a series of study groups with paid student leaders to make sure the sessions take place and a relevant handout to make sure different classes can work together on the same content. We look forward to reporting on our successes and challenges related to the Achieve the Dream grant throughout the five years.

The College is changing its course management system from UCompass to Moodle. Contact us in a year or so to learn about how well Moodle has worked in a college environment. If any of you are already using Moodle we would welcome advice on how best to use it and advice on pitfalls to avoid.

**Kalamazoo Valley Community College** (Rep: Nancy Vendeville)

KVCC is delighted to have added Nicole McClure and Robin Murchison-Greene to their full-time tenure-track math faculty at the beginning of the Fall 2011 semester. Both ladies, who have extensive teaching experience, will focus on developmental mathematics education. Prior to her reign at KVCC, Nicole taught many years at Kalamazoo Christian High School. In 2010, she joined the part-time faculty at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and fell in love with teaching at the community college level. Robin came to KVCC with over 20 years teaching experience. Prior to accepting her current position, she was an adjunct faculty member at both Macomb and Oakland Community Colleges. She has taught HS Geometry, Elementary and Intermediate Algebra, Finite Math, and Pre-Calculus. We are excited to have them on board.

**Macomb Community College** (Rep: Jon Oaks)

During the Fall 2011 Semester Faith Miller launched our new 'Everyday Math' class with one section at our Center Campus. It was a great success and the college is running 3 full sections during the Winter 2012 Semester.

Faith Miller was also awarded funds to create a series of animated videos to help students in our developmental math classes.

Lori Chapman has had success with our classes that are meeting with increased frequency as part of the Achieving the Dream Initiative.

Jon Oaks was awarded funds to start new 'Math On Target Tutoring Sessions' for students enrolled in statistics classes at South Campus. The new sessions will involve the use of iPads to help students visualize the material, better understand the concepts, and improve their study skills.

Our math classrooms at South Campus are in the beginning stages of review for possible renovation. We would love to hear from other colleges that may have recently renovated their math classrooms.

**Mid-Michigan Community College** (Rep: David Kedrowski)

Our student services division was successful with a Title III grant application two summers ago. We learned after the grant had been submitted and approved that it put our department on the hook for using the Emporium model in our developmental courses. We have since learned that we do not have to specifically follow the Emporium model,

but we do need to do something involving computer-based learning. Our department is split on the merits of such approaches and it will be interesting to see what our initial pilot this fall will look like.

**Mott Community College** (Rep: Bernard Cunningham)

At C. S. Mott Community College, the Beginning Algebra course will (finally) become a developmental course beginning the summer semester.

The mathematics area is in process of changing/adding course offerings which will include a statistics track besides the STEM and technology tracks that presently exist. There will be three courses at the Intermediate Algebra level that will reflect the three tracks. Also, there is a campus wide developmental committee that is looking at what skills will be necessary to help a student be successful at the college level. The committee is concentrating on a specific reading level and may discuss a writing level as well.

**St Clair County CC – Royal Oak** (Rep: Cindie Wade)

New things for SC4-We opened a Math Center at the beginning of Fall semester and it is doing great!! It is being staffed fully by the Math Discipline instructors, both full time and adjunct and by students from the Math for Elementary Education Classes. We had an Open house in October and saw over 300 students, many who came back to get tutored in math or to find a nice place to study. Enrollments are down at SC4, but our math classes seem to be holding their own. We are deeply involved in Achieving the Dream, one of our "dreams" was the Math Center to be opened next year, but we are ahead of the game on that one. We have also started a "Math Study Skills" course and are infusing it into our Basic Math and Pre-Algebra courses. We are also Piloting a Math Re-design, somewhat based on Monroe CC's program, with a few twist to it. It will allow students to take both Basic Math and Pre-Algebra in one semester, to move them along in their Mathematical courses. Many of us are looking forward to going to T3 in Chicago in the spring. We think we may take the train, anyone else want to go? Our Discipline is now up to 6 full-time instructors, with the addition of Jeff VanHamlin last year.