



# MichMATYC Sum-Times

Two-Year College Mathematics in Michigan

February 2013

Edited by Khadija Ahmed, Monroe CCC, kahmed@monroeccc.edu

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### Note from President-Elect – Jack Rotman, Lansing CC

MichMATYC has been well served by President Bernard Cunningham, who continues in that role until this summer. We are also fortunate to have members who are willing to take on more work to help the rest of us, whether it is our excellent Treasurer/Secretary (Sam Bazzi) or the people hosting the next conference (Oakland CC) or those helping with our awards. Our organization is also served by 'Campus Representatives' with at least one for each institution; community colleges with multiple campus sites are served by more than one. The officers thank you all for your work.

(Continued on page 2)

#### SAVE THE DATE

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#### MichMATYC Conference 2013

October 4 and 5, 2013  
Oakland CC – Orchard Ridge Campus  
<https://sites.google.com/site/michmatyc13/> or  
[bit.ly/MichMATYC13](http://bit.ly/MichMATYC13)

#### 2013 Annual AMATYC Conference 2013

October 31 – November 3, 2013  
Anaheim, CA  
<http://www.amatyc.org/>

#### Conversations among Colleagues Conference

Saturday, March 23, 2013  
Central Michigan University  
<http://mth.cmich.edu/CaC>

#### Annual Meeting of Michigan MAA and MichMATYC

May 3 and 4, 2013  
Lake Superior State University  
<http://sections.maa.org/michigan/>

### A message from the Midwest Vice-President – Jim Ham, Delta College

Greetings! I hope you enjoyed a productive and successful Fall semester, and I wish you an even better 2013. I would like to give you a brief update on activities and initiatives at AMATYC.

It was great to see many of you at the AMATYC conference in Jacksonville, Florida. As usual, the conference offered keynote presentations, a large collection of excellent member presentations, workshops, and posters, and unlimited networking opportunities with colleagues from across the country. The annual AMATYC conference is unparalleled in terms of what it offers those of us in two-year college mathematics education. Just about every session is related to what we do.

(Continued on page 3)

## President-Elect (continued from page 1)

One of our group's missions is to further mathematics in the first two years. Related to this, a current task force is looking at an update to the "MACRAO Agreement" (Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers). This agreement is intended to facilitate transfer between institutions in the state, and is especially important for us at community colleges. At the governmental level, Michigan has recent budgetary laws which call for this task force to enable easier transfer in all directions across the state. The current MACRAO agreement has two disadvantages that impact our members; first, the Agreement allows institutions to attach provisions which have the result of negating portions of the Agreement at that institution. Second, the math requirement is attached to a "math and science" area, which can be met by two science courses which results in students not taking mathematics courses.

The work of the current task force (composed of high-level academic and registrar-type administrators at 2- and 4-year institutions) deals with both of these issues. The first issue (provisos) is addressed by the budgetary laws themselves – part of future funding will be based on following the new transfer articulation agreement. The second deals with math directly: the task force is discussing having a new area just for math, separate from science. One of the details to work out in the new math area is "which types of math courses"; I am hoping that the new transfer agreement allows courses outside of the path-to-calculus to count (quantitative reasoning, modeling, statistics, etc). Because I have been engaged with the Michigan Center for Student Success, I will be involved with putting the task force in contact with math faculty from both community colleges and universities. This step, likely to be a meeting in Lansing, may occur about the same time as the publication of this Newsletter; I will follow up with a report in the next issue. Back to organizational stuff ... you might know that I had worked as the web master and newsletter editor for the past few years. With my new role, I cannot continue with the web and newsletter. I am grateful to Caroline Castel (Macomb CC) for agreeing to handle the web work; any suggestions or items for the web (like job postings) should be sent to her ([castelc@macomb.edu](mailto:castelc@macomb.edu)). I am also grateful to Khadija Ahmed (Monroe County CC) who has agreed to take over the newsletter work; Campus Representatives sent their items for this newsletter to Khadija ([kahmed@monroeccc.edu](mailto:kahmed@monroeccc.edu)).

Jack

## Announcements

### Conversations among Colleagues conference

#### Early Registration deadline has been extended to February 18, 2013 at 5 PM

The conference will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at Central Michigan University. This year's theme is "Making Practice Core: Mathematical Practices and the Practice of Teaching". The keynote speaker is Jere Confrey of North Carolina State University.

Conversations among Colleagues is a conference designed to engage mathematicians, mathematics educators, and leaders in mathematics education in a day of sessions and conversations to share ideas related to mathematics education and the development of mathematics teachers in the state of Michigan.

<http://mth.cmich.edu/CaC>

### Annual Meeting of Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC will occur on Friday and Saturday, May 3 and 4, 2013 at Lake Superior State University. This will be a historic meeting as this is the first time it will be held in the Upper Peninsula. Sault Saint Marie is located 285 miles from Lansing & Grand Rapids, about 330 miles from Ann Arbor.

The Program Committee is delighted to announce a speaker list that includes plenary addresses by Walter Stromquist (Editor of Mathematics Magazine, Swarthmore College), Rick Gillman (Valparaiso University), Hyman Bass (University of Michigan), Peggy House (Northern Michigan University), and Nancy Sattler (AMATYC President). In addition, we look forward to local-invited talks given by our Michigan colleagues.

Further details will be forthcoming in the Spring. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

<http://sections.maa.org/michigan/>

Each year conference presenters submit their presentation documents and handouts to be included in the online conference proceedings. Also included are videos of the conference's keynote speakers. This year Keith Devlin presented, *The Missing Link: A Tale of Literary Forensics*, and Diane Maldonado presented, *Navigating the Waters of Assessment*. If you missed this year's conference, or if you want to review the slides of a presentation, to view a keynote speaker video, or to download a handout, please visit this year's conference proceedings page at <http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2012Jacksonville/proceedings.html>.

After four years of discussion and compromise, the position statement on *Proctored Testing in Courses Taught at a Distance* was approved. It is now an official AMATYC position that, in online mathematics courses, the final exam be proctored, and at least 50% of the course grade be determined by proctored tests. While some members felt that this position paper did not go far enough, and indeed have more stringent policies for proctored testing in online courses on their own campuses, others countered that the position will help colleagues at colleges who are prohibited from requiring proctored testing. The official position paper can be found at the following link: <http://www.amatyc.org/documents/PositionProctoredTesting.pdf>

The nine AMATYC committees met in Jacksonville to continue their work. They do most of their work between conferences and are always looking for additional members. If one of the committees is of particular interest to you, visit <http://www.amatyc.org/committees>, and contact the appropriate committee chair listed on the website to join. Currently, the Midwest Region does not have a regional representative on either the Teacher Prep Committee or the Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee. If you are interested in serving in a leadership role in AMATYC in one of these positions, please let me know and I will forward your name to the committee chair.

The 2013 AMATYC Annual Conference will be held October 31 through November 3 in Anaheim, California. The theme, *Math: There's no end to the fun*, reflects the venue and the fun we have connecting with friends while we engage in professional development. The conference hotel is located two blocks from Disneyland. The proposal deadline has passed, but I hope that you will consider volunteering to be a presider at the Anaheim conference. Visit the conference site to volunteer to preside or to see the most up-to-date conference information.

The AMATYC Board has extended the Affiliate Scholarship program. This program is intended to help defray the AMATYC conference expenses of a recipient from each affiliate; the recipient receives a free registration to the Anaheim conference. If you are a new AMATYC member or have never attended an AMATYC conference, please contact Bernie Cunningham for details on how MichMATYC selects their recipient.

The AMATYC Webinar Series is completing its second year. To date there have been about 20 webinars. Recent webinars that have been captured for viewing include: *Fast Track - A Sure Bet to Improve Placement*, *Interesting Atypical Calculus Problems*, *New Pathways for Developmental Math: A Look into Mathematical Literacy for College Students*, *Issues in Implementing Reform in Developmental and Gateway Mathematics*, *Resources and Strategies for Online Tools*, *OCTA-TETRA Constructions and Polyhedron Models*, and *Intriguing Tidbits from Probability Theory*. If you missed any of these webinars, you can find them at <http://www.amatyc.org/publications/webinars>. There are several additional webinars planned for the coming months. Watch your email for details

If you are already a member of AMATYC, you are well aware of what AMATYC has to offer. If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to visit the website at <http://www.amatyc.org> and become a member.

I thank you for your support of AMATYC in the past and look forward to seeing many of you at either the joint meeting with the MAA-Michigan Section in the spring, or at the annual MichMATYC conference in the fall.

Jim Ham  
AMATYC Midwest Vice President  
[jaham@delta.edu](mailto:jaham@delta.edu)

February 6, 2013

## ~~~~~Campus News from across the State~~~~~

### **Alpena CC – Dan Rothe**

The new semester has begun here at ACC. Instructor Jim Berles is still enjoying his sabbatical studying GIS technology for some new classes he will teach in our Marine Technology program. Meghan Cameron and Kristin Berles are teaching online sections of Precalculus and Intermediate Algebra respectively. Last fall, we welcomed a new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Kathy Marsh.

Sigma Zeta Math/Science honor society inducted 8 new members this fall. Valet Parking at the CRTC Military Ball was provided by members in October. In December, members enjoyed a trip to the National Weather Service Office in Gaylord (Waters) and to RJG Industries. RJG is a company in Traverse City that manufactures plastics injection molding control devices. Our students were excited to see computer programming and electronics in action. We look forward to helping with the regional Science Olympiad in March.

### **Delta College – Frances Lichtman**

Phoebe Lutz and Steve Rosin were awarded an endowed teaching chair in late 2011 for a project called "Mathematica and More - Making Mathematics Matter." This project was designed to enhance student learning by allowing students a more "hands-on" experience with mathematics through a variety of electronic resources, including the use of Mathematica and related products, many iOS apps and many other free online apps such as Autodesk's Sketchbook Pro (now Sketchbook Designer), which is free to educators and students. They are continuing to create and modify materials for use in both face-to-face and online courses. Their findings thus far were presented at the AMATYC Conference in Jacksonville last November.

David Redman, Tom Wells, and Joe Hernandez are members of Delta College's Achieving the Dream Committee focusing on retention, college readiness, and the transition from high school to college. As part of outreach efforts, Jack Crowell is teaching College Algebra at Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw during late afternoons. David Redman will be attending DREAM 2013 with a team from the College.

The Math Division looks forward to welcoming approximately

500 middle school students to campus for the Delta College Middle School Mathematics Competition on Saturday, March 16. This year's theme is Math and the Technical Trades.

### **Grand Rapids CC – John Dersch**

The GRCC Mathematics Department welcomed two new full-time instructors in Fall 2011, Betsy McKinney and Andrea Hayes. Betsy is teaching developmental mathematics and is the coordinator for Ma 098 (Introductory Algebra). Andrea is teaching mostly developmental mathematics and is working to coordinate our vast number of Ma 107 (Intermediate Algebra) sections. These hires were due partly to Tom Worthington's retirement, after a 47-year career at GRJC/CC, in Summer of 2011. They were also in response to the great need for more full-time faculty in our department; currently our wonderful adjunct teach nearly 70% of our students. We hope to hire two additional full-time faculty to begin teaching in Fall 2014.

Many sections of courses at the level of Intermediate Algebra and below are using ALEKS. Students and faculty alike find it beneficial in many ways, and its use may spread. Our online course offerings continue to grow, accounting for 10 - 12% of our total sections. The department is finishing its 5<sup>th</sup> year of hosting monthly Mathematics Seminars. Speakers have included students, past and present; and faculty, current and retired, full-time and adjunct.

In late April 2012 Alejandro Saldivar stepped down as department head. Our current department head is John Dersch.

### **Lansing CC – Leslie Mohnke**

As we begin 2013, the Math and Computer Science Department will be adjusting to some leadership changes. Our department chair, Dr. Kathy Burgis, officially retired and will enjoy spending time with her husband between their homes in Michigan and California along with visiting family in England. Although she will be greatly missed not only at LCC but the entire Mathematics community, we are very fortunate that Todd Troutman has returned to our department from the divisional office and is acting chair of the department at this time.

(continued on pg. 5)

## **Campus News (LCC continued)**

As a result to the ratification of a new contract in Fall 2012, the Department will be divided into three different program areas and the department recently elected faculty chairs to lead. Jack Rotman will lead the Developmental Math Program; Dan Harden, Non-Stem Program; and Jing Wang, the STEM program.

### **Macomb CC (South Campus) – Jonathan Oaks**

Our Supplemental Instruction pilot at South Campus continues to be a success. In Fall 2012, we saw a significant increase at the .05 level in the final exam score for our Statistics class.

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Although though this shift in power happened with seemingly little fanfare, we are excited to report that Caroline Castel from Center Campus is now the Webmaster for the MichMATYC Website. Also, Jon Oaks was officially named the Professional Development Coordinator for AMATYC during the board meeting last fall in Jacksonville.

Our South Campus started a new department newsletter that we plan to distribute to all of our instructors on a regular basis. The highlights from the first issue included textbook changes, dates of interest, and recent faculty accomplishments. There seemed to be a very positive response to the open lines of communication that we are trying to create.

Jon Oaks has developed a series of professional development workshops for all math instructors on the following topics: Free Technology Tools for Math, Playing Games to Learn Math, Screencasting 101 for Math, and Social Media in Math. The workshops are open to all math instructors, so if you want to attend, there is still time. Contact [oaksj@macomb.edu](mailto:oaksj@macomb.edu) for more information.

Dave Friday has started new initiatives out of Center Campus. In the fall our students participated in the Michigan Autumn Take Home (MATH) Challenge. We placed very well, especially considering that we were the only community college in the state of Michigan to be involved in the competition. We are very proud of all that our students did!

### **Mid-Michigan CC – David Kedrowski**

At Mid-Michigan Community College we are excited that we will soon be interviewing to replace a full-time faculty position in our department that has been vacant for nearly three years.

We have two math faculty chairing major committees this year, the General Education Committee and the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee. Both groups, as well as all departments on campus, are in the early stages of using the Degree Qualifications Profile to map the learning outcomes in our degree programs. It will be quite interesting to see where the process leads – we started a similar project about a decade ago and it fizzled out.

That process will have implications for our Developmental Math project where we're trying to start from nothing and imagine what our developmental math program should look like. A subgroup of three of us (half of the department) has been working for about a year now and are beginning to see a vision firm up. Our goal is to have some rough outlines of courses by early summer that we can compare against the New Life, Carnegie, and Dana Center work. Hopefully we'll find some strong synergies with one of those programs to aid us in our next steps.

### **Monroe CCC – Khadija Ahmed**

We want to thank everyone who joined us at the MichMATYC conference in Monroe last October.

We continue to see improved participation and engagement by our student in three developmental math redesign courses using the Emporium model and netbooks.

### **Mott CC – Bernard Cunningham**

The Mott CC mathematics faculty is in process of implementing our curriculum redesign with a STAT track added to the existing STEM track and a branch for Tech Math. The process is in the second semester of implementation. There is no data to report on at the present time.

Also, the Vice President of Academic Affairs has instructed all divisions to set reading requirements on courses. There are three classifications of reading levels. The mathematics faculty has recommended that no person should take a mathematics course (continued on pg. 6)

## Campus News (Mott CC continued)

who tests into the lowest reading level via the Accuplacer Placement Test. In addition, the highest level of reading is recommended for students taking College Algebra and above.

## Oakland CC – Auburn Hills Campus – Janet Peart

Barbara Hoag joined the faculty at Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills Campus starting in September 2012. She brings energy and technology excitement to our campus. Last year, she was full time temporary at the Orchard Ridge Campus. We are happy to have Barbie as part of our faculty.

## Schoolcraft College – Lois Bearden

We will be posting 2 new full-time positions for Fall, 2013. One is a posting for someone with expertise and commitment to developmental mathematics. The other is for someone capable and willing to teach all of our courses from Math 45 (Basic Mathematics) to Math 252 (Differential Equations).

## St. Clair County CC – Cindie Wade

Here at SC4, we are still experimenting with the New Design, using the Squires and Wyrick material.

We even “kicked it up a notch” and have incorporated it into a couple of our Elementary Algebra classes, for those students who have been through the Basic Math and Pre-Algebra in that format.

We are also proud of our new computer classroom, they “built” us two for our classes. We need another Computer Lab.

Our Math center is booming and we have extended the hours to eight in the evening and on Fridays. We have also been granted several paid tutors, which helps a lot!

The College now has an “Innovation Center”, where all instructors can go and be innovative. It is in our building. All fulltime instructors were given ipads by the Board of Trustees, hopefully we can all be innovative in learning how to use them (we have been a PC campus forever, so this is a new learning curve for some of us seasoned instructors.)

Several of us are going to T<sup>3</sup> in Philadelphia, so we are looking forward to that.

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## MichMATYC Website

<http://michmatyc.org/>

## Job Board – Announcements – Local Meetings

## Nominate a colleague for the MichMATYC Teaching Excellence Award

## Nominate your students MichMATYC Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award

## Student Math League in Michigan

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## MichMATYC Conference 2013

Oakland Community College – Orchard Ridge Campus  
<https://sites.google.com/site/michmatyc13/> or  
[bit.ly/MichMATYC13](http://bit.ly/MichMATYC13)

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## MichMATYC is on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MichMATYC>

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## AMATYC

<http://www.amatyc.org/>

## Join – Get Involved

## Sign up for an AMATYC Webinar

## Sponsor a student team at your college Student Mathematics League (SML)

<http://www.amatyc.org/SML/index.htm>  
Round 2: February 15 – March 9, 2013

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## Next newsletter – May 2013

Please send your campus news to  
[kahmed@monroeccc.edu](mailto:kahmed@monroeccc.edu)

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