

MichMATYC Sum-Times

Two-Year College Mathematics in Michigan



March 2009

Greetings from the President

Lisa Winch
Kalamazoo Valley
Community College



Welcome back from spring break! I hope that your winter semester is progressing well for you. Here are some updates to keep you informed about MichMATYC.

Maria Andersen from Muskegon Community College has served as President-Elect to the Executive Board of MichMATYC for the past year and will officially take over as the President of our vital organization on July 1.

I also want to thank and acknowledge Sam Bazzi from Henry Ford CC who continues to serve as our Secretary-Treasurer. He does an incredible job of keeping track of MichMATYC's finances and is one of our organization's longtime supporters.

There are no elections this year, but we are in the
continued on page 2

MichMATYC Conferences: Past and Future

2008 at Delta College; 2009 at Henry Ford Community College

by Jack Rotman
Lansing CC

Delta College (University Center) hosted our 2008 conference October 10 and 11. Approximately 100 colleagues attended the Saturday sessions, and the Friday social event was enjoyed by all present.

In addition to the scheduled events, much 'networking' was done ... as you can see from the picture below.



Henry Ford Community College will host our 2009 conference on October 9 and 10, with the theme "Mathematics Drives the Future". Anybody is encouraged to submit a proposal to present; the proposal form is available online.

2009 MichMATYC Conference web site:
<http://michmatyc.org/michmatyc2009/index.htm>

Proposal to present form:
<http://michmatyc.org/michmatyc2009/callforpresenters.html> Due date: April 20, 2009

You can navigate to both of these links from the MichMATYC web page: <http://michmatyc.org>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	President's Article
1	MichMATYC Conferences
2	Keeping Current with AMATYC
2	Campus News
3	Conferences & Events
4	Student Scholarship: Application Available
4	Teaching Excellence: Call for Nominations

process of soliciting nominations for the MichMATYC **student scholarship award(s)** and the MichMATYC **Teaching Excellence Award**. Mark Sigfrids is chairing the **student scholarship committee**. Mark will be joined by Sue Hollar, Brianna Lodholtz and Nancy Vendeville. Please encourage your students to apply for this award. Detailed information can be found on the MichMATYC web site. We had several applications last year and the winner, Mary Grocholski, was able to attend the fall conference to accept the award. The scholarship winner receives a \$500 scholarship. The deadline for scholarship applications is June 12, 2009.

Sue Hollar (the 2007 TE Award winner) will chair the MichMATYC **TE Award committee** this year. Sue will be joined by Jim Ham (the 2005 TE Award winner). Nomination information is available online and all TE nomination packets should be sent directly to Jim Ham. The deadline to submit materials for this award is June 30, 2009.

Mark your calendars! **The 2009 MichMATYC Fall Conference** will be held at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn on October 9th and 10th. Sam Bazzi and Jeff Morford are working to organize the conference and the call for presenters can be found on the website.

Our colleagues at Delta College hosted last year's conference and I would like to congratulate Jim Ham, Pheobe Lutz and their colleagues for their outstanding work in organizing an inspirational conference. I hope everyone enjoyed their experience at the conference and will plan to attend this year conference.

Finally, please encourage your full and part-time colleagues to join MichMATYC this year. The membership application can be found in our website at <http://michmatyc.org/join.html> .❖

Keeping Current with AMATYC

As your Midwest VP, it's my pleasure to announce that AMATYC has several new professional development opportunities in the works. *The MathAMATYC Educator*, will soon debut as a colorful magazine-style replacement for the **AMATYC Review**. This new publication will feature articles that are "classroom ready" for the

courses we offer at two- year colleges. The Traveling Workshop Program successfully offered its first Statistics webinar with ASA in February and has a number of NSF- funded College Algebra workshops planned (contact Patrick Averbek at tw@amatyc.org for details). Add these to our summer institutes in Boulder, Colorado, Lander, Wyoming, and Cape Cod, and you can easily see that 2009 will be an exciting year for AMATYC even before we meet in Las Vegas (November 12-15)! Always check www.amatyc.org for the most up- to-date details, or contact me at jtrefzger@aol.com. -- Jim Trefzger, AMATYC Midwest Vice President, Parkland College, Champaign, IL

Campus News

Henry Ford Community College (Rep: Jeff Morford)

Henry Ford Community College has begun to plan for this year's MichMATYC Conference in October. Check <http://michmatyc.org> for details.

If you attended the Michigan Developmental Education Consortium Conference this month we hope you saw Adam Cloutier's session. He described a math class designed for students in the HFCC Culinary Arts program.

Grand Rapids Community College (Rep:John Dersch)

Shanna Goff, hired in Fall of '07 to coordinate our Ma 003 course reports as follows: "MA 003 (Basic math review and pre-algebra) at GRCC has experienced a decline in success rate for students. The number of students placed in this level of course work has increased. The number of students needing to repeat the course has also increased. In an effort to improve success for these students, the course has been revised to offer a two-semester version. The course has been renamed and renumbered to clarify the content. Students taking Accuplacer will be placed either in the one-year 095/096 sequence or the MA 097 one semester course. Mandatory placement will be enforced as of Winter 2010. Additionally, pilot projects involving cooperative learning and ALEKS are addressing alternative presentation of content."

Also, long-time Mathematics instructor and current Department Head Nickie Alexander suffered a stroke in September 2008. She is making a slow but courageous recovery, and plans to be back with us soon. In the meantime Jim Chesla has come back from retirement to assume department head responsibilities on an interim basis.

Lake Michigan College (Rep: James Larson)

No recent personnel changes in the math department. Most believe Gerry Cox will outlast us all ☺ .

We are teaching a new precalculus this semester that includes algebra and trigonometry in one compact 4 credit course. It was specifically designed to fit into a nuclear technology program (a new partnership with the local nuclear power plant) and also to transfer to Western Michigan. But it turns out it may be a good fit for some students in other fields and some who are transferring to other 4 year institutions. The major concern with the new course is pace as we take the same material we cover in precalc algebra (4 cr) and precalc trig (3 cr) and condense it down to one 4 credit course.

On our PD day members of the LMC math department visited the LCC math lab and exchanged ideas with some of their colleagues regarding remedial math classes. Topics included: how do we define student success?, different delivery methods and their impact on students, specifics about how the math lab is run, etc.

Mid Michigan College (Rep: David Kedrowski)

Last fall we started a new course called Algebraic Concepts and are currently running our second section. It's a course that covers much of the same material as our existing Basic Algebra course, but without a lot of the depth. It was designed primarily for students that have never had any algebra experience to give them an easier first algebra course and to help better prepare them for the pace and depth of Basic Algebra.

Currently, the mathematics portion of our General Education program allows each degree program to choose the math course(s) it deems appropriate. In light of the new high school math expectations, the Gen Ed committee realized this allows our college graduates to satisfy a lesser math requirement than future high school graduates. At the committee's request, the math department discussed various options and recommended that the requirement be changed to at least one course beyond the Basic Algebra level. The Gen Ed committee accepted the proposal and decided to implement it in two steps over a two year period beginning this coming fall. However, the proposal has generated a lot of discussion as more and more people have considered the impacts on our students. Currently it looks like the first step will be delayed as conversations continue.

Muskegon Community College (Rep: Maria Andersen)

We are pleased to welcome Gary Nonnemacher to our math faculty, which brings our department back up to four full-time math instructors. Previously, Gary

taught at Bowling Green University and has two Masters degrees, one in Math and another in Math Education.

In other news, MCC will be hosting another week-long Math & Technology Workshop in August.

Oakland Community College , Highland Lakes Campus (Rep: Emily McAllister)

We are exploring on-line homework as an option for our classes. If you have input or suggestions, please contact me <mailto:ehmcalli@oaklandcc.edu>

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

MICHIGAN MAA/MICHMATYC MEETING

PLACE CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

DATE MAY 8 & 9

<http://www.math.hope.edu/maa/2009-section-meeting.html>

AMATYC SUMMER INSTITUTES

BEYOND CROSSROADS SUMMER WORKSHOP: THE BC WAY: EMBRACING CHANGE FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

CAPE COD, MASSACHUSETTS JUNE 11-12, 2009

GAISEING BEYOND THE CROSSROADS: IMPROVING INSTRUCTION IN INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS - A CAUSEWAY WORKSHOP

BOULDER, CO JULY 6-10, 2009

MATHEMATICS ACROSS THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CURRICULUM (MAC3)

LANDER, WY JULY 11-14, 2009

<http://amatyc.org/Events/summer-institutes.htm> for information on all summer institutes

MCTM (MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF MATHEMATICS)

PLACE DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL, MACOMB, MI

DATE AUGUST 6-7

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

MICHMATYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE HENRY FORD CC (DEARBORN)

DATE OCTOBER 9-10

<http://michmatyc.org/michmatyc2009/index.htm>

AMATYC 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE LAS VEGAS, NV

DATE NOVEMBER 12 TO 15

<http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2009LV/>

MICHMATYC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, MichMATYC awards one or two scholarships (\$500 each) to students who began their mathematics at a community college.

CRITERIA: THE STUDENT MUST HAVE

- Completed a minimum of 12 credit hours, with 6 hours from a two-year Michigan community college and an overall college GPA of 3.2
- Completed at least two of the following courses at a two-year Michigan community college: Trigonometry, Statistics, Calculus and/or Above Calculus
- Maintained a 3.5 cumulative G.P.A. in all community college mathematics courses
- Attended a two-year Michigan community college after January 1, 2008

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

Jack Rotman, *MichMATYC Newsletter Editor*
Dept of Mathematical Skills
Lansing Community College
PO Box 40010
Lansing, MI 48901

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

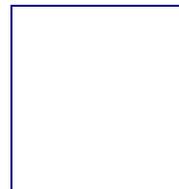
MichMATYC Teaching Excellence Award

The MichMATYC Teaching Excellence Award was established to recognize the high quality of instruction occurring at Michigan's two-year colleges. The selection criteria used for the award are:

- Instructional Effectiveness and Support of Students (effective and innovative teaching strategies, assessment methods, curriculum development, learning environment, etc.)
- Professional Involvement and Professional Development/Renewal Activities (active participation in professional organizations, presentations, articles, conferences, etc.)
- Interaction with Colleagues
- Service to the Departments/Division/College

A nominee must be a MichMATYC member currently employed as a classroom instructor in a two-year college or other institution granting only associate degrees. A nominee must have a minimum of 5 years of teaching experience. Individuals can win the award only once..

The nomination form and further details available online at <http://michmatyc.org/awards.html> . ■



Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321