

MichMATYC SUM-TIMES

Two Years College Mathematics in Michigan



Edited by Indah [kooswinarsinindyahd@macomb.edu]

May 2016

Inside this issue: *Letter from the president, Message from AMATYC Midwest VP, Teaching Excellent Award, Save the Date, Campus News, Call for MichMATYC Conference Presenter.*

Letter from the President: Anna Cox, Kellogg CC

Hello, my name is Anna Cox. As the new president of MichMATYC, I am excited by the prospect of working with you as we continue to grow and develop this organization into a tool for meeting the needs and goals of our faculty members and their students. In 1981, under the guidance of Karen Sharp, thirteen two-year college instructors created MichMATYC with the goal of providing opportunities for Michigan community college instructors to share ideas, consolidate resources, and make plans for the future needs of their students. The number of talented individuals in this organization is remarkable, both then and now. I know that many of you have ideas about how you would like to see this organization grow and it is my hope that we will work together to expand our association so that we address some of these topics.

During my 21 years of experience teaching at Kellogg Community College, I have become a great proponent of active learning. One of my passions is integrating technology into the modern classroom. I have worked with TechSmith and Texas Instrument and would like to help Michigan teachers explore and develop innovative learning opportunities for students.

Math courses provide the foundation of problem solving which is an integral part of any career. Without success in learning math concepts, many of our students would not be able to reach their profession goals. As a result, the decisions that we make as educators and the resources that we have available for students are critical.

There are two upcoming deadlines that I would like to draw your attention to concerning opportunities for students and faculty. The first of these is the Outstanding Educator Award. I encourage nominations for this award to be submitted no later than May 16. In addition, interested students for the Karen Sharp Scholarship should get their applications in by June 1. Both of these awards are great opportunities to acknowledge exceptional people. Thank you for being such great supporters of math education and I look forward to working with you in the future.

<http://www.michmatyc.org/Awards.html>

Updates from the AMATYC Spring Board Meeting

Jon Oaks

AMATYC Midwest Regional Vice President

jonnyoaks@gmail.com



I hope everyone is doing well as the Spring/Winter semester is coming to a close for most of us. Not everyone knows this, but every year the AMATYC Executive Board has a Spring Board Meeting at the AMATYC Offices on the Campus of Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, TN. As a new board member this year, this was my first time representing the Midwest Region at the meeting. With that being said, I wanted to take a moment to give you some of the highlights from the board meeting, the biggest one being that the new AMATYC Mission Statement and Vision were approved:

AMATYC Mission Statement

To provide high quality professional development, to advocate and collaborate at all levels, and to build communities of learners for all involved in mathematics education in the first two years of college.

AMATYC Vision

To be the leading voice and resource for excellence in mathematics education in the first two years of college.

The AMATYC Traveling Workshop Grant Application is Now Available!

Have you or your institution or affiliate thought about having a Traveling Workshop, but weren't sure you could secure funding due to budget issues?

The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) is proud to provide a wide variety of professional development opportunities. In addition to the annual conference and thriving webinar series, AMATYC has been offering Traveling Workshops for many years. These are one and two day presentations, focused on the topic of your choice. Information about traveling workshops can be found at <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=TravelingWorkshops>.

While many institutions and affiliates have expressed interest in hosting a Traveling Workshop, the cost of hosting is a major issue for cash-strapped colleges and affiliates. In the 2016-2017 year, AMATYC will award up to 8 Traveling Workshop Grants of up to \$2000 each to fund Traveling Workshops. Ideally, we would like to award one of these grants in each of the 8 AMATYC regions. Applications are due Friday, July 1, 2016.

For more information and to sign up, please visit <https://amatyc.site-ym.com/page/TWGrantApp> or contact Lisa Feinman at lfeinman@ccbcmd.edu.

Other Notes from Around AMATYC:

- Have you ever had trouble navigating the AMATYC website? If so, you are in luck! AMATYC's Website Coordinator, George Hurlburt, has made several videos explaining how to navigate the AMATYC website. If you are an AMATYC Member, now you can even print your AMATYC Membership card from the website. Please visit <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=WebsiteNavigation> for more information.
- Please consider joining one of AMATYC's Academic Committees, such as the Placement and Assessment Committee (PAC). The purpose of the Placement and Assessment Committee is to serve as a resource for the AMATYC membership on issues related to placement and assessment of student outcomes and mathematical programs. Do you want to be part of this committee but do not know how to join? Send an email to the committee chair, Behnaz Rouhani, at behnaz.rouhani@gpc.edu to receive the know-how information.
- Start making plans to attend AMATYC's 42nd Annual Conference, November 17-20, 2016, at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, CO. Remember that one member from MichMATYC will receive a free conference registration. If you are planning to attend and will be a first time attendee, I would like to hear from you as I plan to have a reception for first time attendees from the Midwest Region. Please contact me at jonnyoaks@gmail.com to find out more!
- AMATYC webinars are great form of Professional Development that you can do from the comfort of your own home or office. AMATYC is always looking for webinar speakers. If you would like more information about participating in or facilitating a webinar, please visit <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=ProfDevForm> to request more information.
- AMATYC Project ACCESS is a mentoring and leadership program for two-year college mathematics educators who are beginning their careers. Funded in large part by the AMATYC Foundation, this year-long, multi-year project sends about 25 new AMATYC members to the AMATYC conference two years in a row and connects them with a community of learners. A new cohort of AMATYC fellows is selected each year. **The deadline to apply to be included in the next cohort is May 15, 2016.** Please consider nominating yourself or one of your newer colleagues.
- Did you know that AMATYC is currently looking for nominees for the 2017 Teaching Excellence Award and the 2018 Mathematics Excellence Award? Please consider taking the time to make a nomination for a deserving individual. More information can be found at www.amatyc.org.

- AMATYC's Standards Document, *Beyond Crossroads*, is being revised. Please keep an eye out for additional details about this in the coming months.
- I encourage you to learn about and join AMATYC if you are not a member. For more information about AMATYC events and activities, please check out the recent AMATYC newsletter at <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=AMATYCNews> or visit the AMATYC website at amatyc.org.

Thanks for all you do in the wonderful state of Michigan and for your continued support of MichMATYC and AMATYC. If there is ever anything that I can do to assist you at all, please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me at jonnyoaks@gmail.com. I hope you have a great rest of the spring!

Jon

SAVE THE DATE



42nd AMATYC Annual Conference
Denver, CO
November 17-20, 2016

MichMATYC Teaching Excellence Award

Deadline for Nominations: May 16, 2016

Nomination forms are available on the MichMATYC website.

Nominate one of your exceptional colleagues!!

~~~~~ CAMPUS NEWS ~~~~~

**Alpena CC - Dan Rothe**

The spring semester is nearing an end as I write this report. Enrollment numbers were steady, which after several semesters of decline was a welcomed change. With Jim Berles busy with GIS and engineering, and Steve Lewis training for our new electrical bachelors program, the three remaining full time math instructors (Mike Kelley, Meghan Cameron, and Dan Rothe) have been busy. We have all had overloads due to short staffing.

We are excited to promote the beginning of the new Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Systems Technology. This BS program consists of four years of classes that build upon existing coursework that ACC offers in utility technology and electrical maintenance, as well as the development of new courses in the 300 & 400 levels. More information can be found on our website:

<http://discover.alpenacc.edu/electricalsystems.php>. The curriculum includes Calculus I, C++ programming and a number of higher science classes. We are hopeful that this will help our numbers in these upper classes.

Faculty from our department ran several events at the Regional Science Olympiad tournament held at ACC in March. ACC is also proud to be hosting this year's National Lineman's Rodeo competition on April 29, 2016 for utility tech students from across the country. A number of our faculty are involved in helping.

The Huron Shores EdTech Conference will be held at Alpena Community College on Tuesday August 16, 2016. The conference is a collaboration between Meghan Cameron, a Mathematics Instructor at Alpena Community College, and Ashlie O'Connor from the AMAESD Tech Consortium. The purpose of the conference is to bring together educators from all grade levels and disciplines and collaborate on new and innovative ways to use technology to enhance instruction.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Leigh Graves Wolf, the Assistant Director of the MSU Hub for Learning and Technology and an Associate Professor of Education Technology at Michigan State University.

Would you like to attend the conference or become a presenter? Visit our website at [huronshoresedtech.amaesd.org](http://huronshoresedtech.amaesd.org) to find our more information or contact Meghan Cameron at [cameronm@alpenacc.edu](mailto:cameronm@alpenacc.edu). The deadline to apply to present is June 8, 2016. The cost to attend the conference is \$25. We look forward to seeing you there!

ACC Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society recently held their spring induction. Six new members were inducted and four other previously inducted fall members were also honored. Members enjoyed a tour of our LaFarge Corporation (the world's largest cement plant) here in Alpena. Members ran their own event at the Science Olympiad tournament as well as assisting various faculty with other events. Later

this month, they will be helping with scorekeeping for the Lineman's Rodeo. At the end of the semester, we will be taking a field trip for an engineering tour of the Mackinac Bridge, Soo Locks, and Cloverland Hydroelectric Powerplant (formerly Edison Sault) in Sault Ste. Marie. The members are looking forward to this and are thankful for this opportunity to see a view of these famous places that ordinary people don't get to see.

### **Delta CC - Frances Lichtman**

The Mathematics Division is delighted to announce plans for the 2016 MichMATYC Fall Conference. On Friday, October 14, we will be hosting an AMATYC workshop, *Discovering the Art of Mathematics*, facilitated by Brian Jennings of Westfield State University in Massachusetts. This six-hour, inquiry-based workshop will provide participants a wealth of new resources and teaching techniques. Lunch will be provided. The social gathering on Friday evening will be held in an historic venue in downtown Bay City.

The program on Saturday, October 15, includes exceptional speakers committed to excellence in mathematics education. A current list of presenters can be found in this newsletter. There is still time for you to propose a presentation on any subject related to mathematics, curriculum or pedagogy. Topics could include accessibility, common core, flipping the classroom, open educational resources, pathways, and software applications for the classroom. Interested? We would welcome your proposal.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered on both Friday and Saturday. Please encourage your local middle school and high school colleagues to consider this opportunity.

Full details about the program and registration will be available on the conference website, opening June 1. <http://michmatyc.org/>

### **Grand Rapid CC - John Dersch**

GRCC has hired Brian Hadley as the 16th member of our Full Time Mathematics faculty. Brian is a former GRCC student and current adjunct, and we are very pleased that he will be sharing his passion and expertise with GRCC's mathematical community. This marks the first time since the WWII era that the number of our full-time math faculty has been a perfect 4th power.

John Dersch recently ended his 4-year tenure as Mathematics Department Head, and was ably replaced by Dana Sammons on April 30.

In Winter 2017, GRCC will begin Mandatory Placement in most of its mathematics courses. ALEKS PPL will be playing a key role in this venture.

## **Kalamazoo Valley CC - Darlene Kohrman**

KVCC's news for this edition begins on a sad note. On Saturday, April 16, 2016, our colleague, Robin Murchison-Greene passed away losing her battle against cancer. She joined the mathematics department in August of 2011 and was recently granted continuing status. Robin's contributions to the mathematics department were many but her focus was in the area of developmental mathematics. Her absence will be felt not only by her colleagues but also by her students. In her relatively short time at KVCC, she touched many with her courage, her optimism, and her warm and lovely smile. The college honored her memory on Arbor Day at a tree planting ceremony on the Texas Township Campus. Many colleagues attended her memorial service on Saturday, April 30, 2016 in Detroit, Michigan.

Several members of the department attended conferences this semester. Those included Conversations Among Colleagues at WMU. This conference was generously supported financially by members of the department. Other members of the faculty who teach in the developmental area as well as our dean, attended the MDEC conference at Delta College Planetarium on March 31, - April 1, 2016. The theme of this conference is *Developmental Education Makes a Difference*. Several presentations cautioned us about using only one measure to determine placement for our mathematics students. KVCC will host the MDEC conference next year.

The department attended a presentation on the possible use of ALEKS as placement tool for our mathematics students. As a result, the college will run a summer pilot where 400 students will use ALEKS in order to determine their mathematics course placement.

The Higher Learning Commission visited the college in March as our time for accreditation had arrived.

The college held an open house on April 24, 2016 for the new Bronson Healthy Living Campus downtown facilities.

Fall semester will bring both new leadership and a continuation/extension of the attendance policy requirements for several developmental mathematics courses.

## **Lansing CC - Leslie Mohnke**

LCC will have TWO math literacy courses starting Fall 2016. In addition to our regular (4-credit, Math105) course, we will offer a 6-credit "Math Literacy with Review" (Math106) which will accept students with very low math levels. Math105 and Math106 begin any math path (STEM or not); we still have beginning algebra. We plan on doing a presentation at the MichMATYC conference at Delta College on the newest Math Lit course (Math106).

LCC's fledgling Math and Computer Science club had a good first year under the leadership of its founder and student president Chad Denbrock. The faculty advisors are Dr. Jing Wang and Dr. Homa

Ghaussi-Mujtaba. The club hosted two speakers: Arnold Hammel of Central Michigan University spoke about cryptology and number theory, and Galen Stevens, an aerospace engineer for Boeing, spoke about geostationary satellites and astrodynamics. The MACS club's other activities include experimentation with the Makerbot 3-D printer using both Mathematica and Sketch-Up to design objects, and monthly logic puzzles provided by faculty member and puzzle enthusiast Tristan Williams. Lansing Community College is a member of the AACC Pathway Project. The main goal of the project is to provide students with a clear path to completion (degree, certificate, transfer) and to minimize the time students spend on courses that they do not need. This April, Mark Chapman was part of an AACC institute in Washington DC. Part of the work was to discuss the idea of guided pathways and to develop a plan to build clear pathways for students. Traditionally, students have been herded into algebra-based courses that are geared toward the calculus/STEM path. The overall opinion at the institute was that many math departments are dragging their feet and not willing to widen these other paths. This opinion may be valid in some cases and a misguided perception in others. Schools like LCC have recognized the need for widening statistics and quantitative literacy paths in the interest of student success.

The Hands-on-*Mathematica* Training/Workshops led by Professor Jing Wang, Ph.D. for the LCC STEM Math program had another successful semester. Students who attended the workshops appreciated the opportunities to learn and gain experience using *Mathematica*. They are amazed by what *Mathematica* can do and are challenged by the rigor, logic and critical thinking skills that *Mathematica* requires. In the fall of 2016, Professor Jing Wang will be on her sabbatical. During the sabbatical leave, she will develop *Mathematica* and 3D printing projects for the STEM Math program.

### **Monroe County CC - Vinnie Maltese**

We have two items to report from Monroe County CC.

1. Kathleen Shepherd, Professor of Mathematics at MCCC has successfully defended her dissertation and has been awarded her PhD from the University of Toledo.
2. Our Institutional Research office reports college enrollments down 32.4% for the period from 2010/11 through 2015/16, developmental math (Basic Math Skills, Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra) enrollments down 33.1% for the same period, but entry level college math (Math Explorations, Math for Elem. Teachers I, College Algebra, Intro. to Statistics, Precalculus) enrollments down only 2.8% for that period.



October 14-15, 2016      Delta College  
Michigan Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges  
(MichMATYC) Annual Conference

SECOND call for presenters.  
There is still time for YOU to join our  
select lineup of speakers at this year's conference.

*These outstanding speakers are already BOOKED in these FOCUS AREAS!*

COMMON CORE

Ruth Anne Hodges and Jill Griffin (Michigan Department of Education!)

FLIPPING

Julie Gunkelman (OCC!)

Joseph Terwillegar (Harbor Beach H.S.!)

PATHWAYS

Barbara Bouthillier (GRCC!)

Jim Ham (AMATYC President-Elect, Delta!)

Jay Lehmann (College of San Mateo, CA !)

Tammy Neitzke (CMU!)

Victor Piercey, Erin Militzer, Anil Venkatesh, Roxanne Cullen,

Deirdre Fagan, Melissa Sara Smith (Ferris State!)

SOFTWARE APPS

Steve Rosin (Delta!)

STUDENT STORIES

Barbie Hoag (OCC!)

Jon Oaks (Macomb!)

Myung Pinner (Delta!)

Alejandro Saldivar and Meghan VanderMale (GRCC!)

MATH GROUPS

Jon Oaks (AMATYC Midwest Regional VP!)

Janis Voegelé (CMU!)

Other FOCUS AREAS include:

ACCESSIBILITY

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Guide for Presenters:

- \* **20** dynamic, fast-paced (but not rushed!) **minutes** is preferred.
- \* All presentations will be given on Saturday, October 15.
- \* Please submit a brief description of your topic, including the FOCUS AREA.
- \* Deadline: Presentations submitted by **June 17, 2016**, and selected, receive a \$10 gas card as a "Thank you!"

Anticipated website opening: June 1, 2016

AMATYC traveling workshop on Friday

Delta College STEM EXPLORER mobile laboratory tours on Saturday

**CEU credits** WILL be available for the conference.

Plan to join your colleagues on Friday night for an **unforgettable** social hour in Bay City.

Send submissions or Questions to: Mary Roberson at [maryroberson@delta.edu](mailto:maryroberson@delta.edu) or (989) 686-9116 .