



The MichMATYC Sum-Times

The Michigan Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

September 2021

In This Issue	Edited by Julie Gunkelman (president@michmatyc.org)
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<h3>Save the Date</h3>  <p>MAA Michigan Section and MichMATYC Annual Meeting Grand Valley State University Grand Rapids, MI April 8-9, 2022</p>	<p>I am very thankful to have Michael Pemberton serving as Past President and Sam Bazzi returning for another term as Secretary-Treasurer. To round out the Executive Board, we are in search of an AMATYC affiliate delegate. This year's AMATYC Delegate Assembly will be meeting November 6th on Zoom, so travel isn't necessary to attend the conference in Phoenix. Please contact me if you are interested in serving the organization in this capacity.</p> <p>The details and registration link for the MichMATYC conference are on the second page of the newsletter. I want to thank Michael Pemberton for all his efforts to overcome many hurdles and host this year's virtual conference. Michael's leadership for MichMATYC, involvement in AMATYC and making sure we all have a way to connect next month speaks volumes to his passion for professional development. I remember a comment Michael made when we had a meet up for MichMATYC last year. It was centered around why he attended, and he said, "I always learn something." I really appreciate Michael's work to ensure that we all can learn something at the conference.</p>
<h3>Save the Date</h3>  <p>Join your AMATYC friends in Phoenix, AZ, October 28-31, 2021</p> <p>AMATYC Conference October 28-31</p> <p>Virtual Days November 5-6</p>	<p>You many have seen the announcement on the MichMATYC website July 8th that MichMATYC has a new website coordinator. Steve Rosin of Delta College has taken on this role for the organization. I cannot thank Steve enough for helping the organization in this way!</p> <p>We are in search of a newsletter editor for the Sum-Times. The newsletter comes out three times a year in September, February, and May. Please contact me directly if you are interested in serving the organization in this role.</p>
	<p>I am looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom for MichMATYC's first virtual conference on October 9th.</p> <p>Stay well,  Julie president@michmatyc.org</p>

2021 MichMATYC Virtual Conference

Michael Pemberton
Lansing Community College

Mark your calendars for our [MichMATYC Virtual Conference](#) on Saturday, October 9. This year's conference is going to be fantastic! The theme for this year's conference is *Mathematics Support and Success: A Vision for the Future*, which combines academic and support services that empowers our students to become the next generation of leaders and changemakers!

You'll be inspired by the outstanding presentations and re-energized by spending time with colleagues and friends from around the state. We are a truly special organization, and it is exciting when we can come together – even remotely during a pandemic – to share ideas, learn new teaching strategies, and bring an excitement and passion for teaching mathematics to our classrooms.

Although this year's conference is virtual, you will find that the program will be familiar from previous conference years. We are delighted to announce that this year's conference will kick-off at 8:45 am ET with our keynote speaker Patrick Riley, Professor of Mathematics at Hopkinsville Community College in Kentucky, and AMATYC Webinar Coordinator. Pat's presentation is titled *Application Based Teaching – From Iron Man to Buzz Lightyear and Everything in Between*. Pat's presentation will share techniques, benefits, and a few challenges from teaching math with an application-based approach.



The program continues at 10:00 am ET with five break-out sessions from practitioners from around the state and region, as well as our annual business meeting and awards ceremony.

This year's break-out sessions include topics from a variety of areas including adaptive learning, developmental math, co-requisite support courses, math study strategies, storytelling in math courses, changes in elementary teachers course curriculum, online teaching, and so much more! For a more in-depth view of the [conference program](#), [schedule](#), this year's speakers, and presentations, please visit the [conference website](#).

Virtual Conference at a Glance

Times listed are Eastern Time (ET)

8:45-9:00 am	Conference Welcome
9:00-9:50 am	Keynote Presentation
10:00-10:45 am	Break-Out Session 1
11:00-11:45 am	Break-Out Session 2
12:30-1:30 pm	Business Meeting and Awards
1:45-2:30 pm	Break-Out Session 3
2:45-3:30 pm	Break-Out Session 4
3:45-4:30 pm	Break-Out Session 5
4:30-4:45 pm	Closing Remarks

To register for this year's virtual conference and renew your annual membership, or even become a lifetime member, please complete the registration form using the link below. The virtual conference registration fee of \$10 will continue to support the organization, the Karen Sharp Student Scholarship, and Teaching Excellence Awards.

[Conference Registration](#)

I would like to thank the MichMATYC Executive Board and Rodger Irish, for their assistance and support in transitioning this year to a virtual conference. We look forward to you joining us for this year's exciting conference!



AMATYC Update from Midwest Vice President

Jon Oaks

*AMATYC Midwest Regional Vice President
Macomb Community College*

I can't believe it's already September! My calendar is full of plans to go to the cider mill to get donuts every weekend, but in between my weekly donut runs, I'm planning to check out these events around AMATYC and the Midwest Region and I hope you make time to do so as well:

AMATYC Webinar – Getting Fired Up for Phoenix! with the AMATYC Conference Committee

Thursday, September 23, at 3:00 pm Eastern.

Join the Conference Committee for a preview of the 47th AMATYC Annual Conference, October 28 – 31. See the layout of the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. Hear program highlights. Preview the conference app. Get ideas for maximizing your experience. Be among the first to learn about new events.

Wellbeing with Mindfulness (for Sustainable, Inspired Teachers) Monthly Working Group

Friday, September 24, at 4:00 pm Eastern

This working group aims to create a community of faculty who wish to explore and practice mindfulness for wellness - mental, emotional, and physical. Besides decluttering the mind and reducing stress, mindfulness inculcates sharper focus, higher awareness of the surroundings, more profound empathy, and a sense of gratitude - excellent qualities in an educator. Working attentively and being present with our students and colleagues without losing our cool is possible. Also, the relaxation response from continued practice allows the mind to be creative and to innovate. The group would be supportive and non-judgmental as we model these traits in our classes. Mindful teaching and mindful learning will reap tangible rewards.

AMATYC Webinar – Growth Mindset: The Foundation to Success in Mathematics with Jessica Bernards

Thursday, September 30, at 1:00 pm Eastern

Growth mindset has become a familiar buzzword over the last few years, but how does it relate specifically to math? The presentation will discuss what a growth mindset looks like in a math class, the importance of it, and how you can foster this trait in your students with inclusion and equity in mind.

Also... don't forget these dates:

- September 16: AMATYC Standards Committee Meeting at 3 pm Eastern (Virtual)
- September 25: WisMATYC Annual Conference (Virtual)
- September 30: Last day for eligible voters to vote in the 2021 AMATYC Election
- September 30: Early registration deadline for the 2021-22 Student Math League Competition
- October 28 – 30: 47th AMATYC Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ
- April 8 – 9, 2022: Michigan Section MAA – MichMATYC Spring Meeting, GVSU
- April 15, 2022: Deadline for Phase 2 of the Teaching for PROWESS Grant

As always, thank you so much, and if you ever need anything, please reach out to me at jonoaks@amatyc.org. I hope you have a great rest of your fall!

Jon



Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award

Michael Pemberton
Lansing Community College

The Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award is presented annually to a current or former Michigan community college student who excels in mathematics. At this year’s MichMATYC Virtual Conference, we will recognize two students for their outstanding achievements in mathematics during the 2020-21 academic year.

Michael Reynolds (Oakland Community College)

Sandra Zori (Oakland Community College)



2020-21 Karen Sharp Scholarship Award recipient

Sandra Zori from Oakland Community College

Each student scholarship winner will receive a \$500 scholarship in support of their continuing education.

2021-22 Karen Scholarship Award Information

Who will be the next recipients of the Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award this academic year?

Here’s how you can help! Please inform your amazing students of the eligibility and application requirements, and also assist in their scholarship application with a letter of recommendation.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible a student must have:

- Completed a minimum of 12 credit hours, with 6 hours from any of the member colleges of the Michigan Community College Association
- Completed at least three of the following courses at a MCCA member college: Statistics, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Calculus I, Calculus II, or above Calculus II
- Maintained at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA in all math courses at a MCCA member college
- Enrolled in and attended an MCCA member college after January 1, 2022.

Application Requirements

- Complete a [Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award application](#).
- Typed personal statement describing why the student feels they should receive a scholarship from a mathematics organization and how receiving the scholarship will help them to achieve their goals. In addition, the personal statement should indicate how the student hopes to use mathematics in the future.
- Two signed letters of recommendation, at least one from a mathematics instructor on MCCA college letterhead.
- Official college academic transcript(s).

All application materials must be received by May 31, 2022, with official transcripts emailed to the Chair of the Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Committee at scholarship@michmatyc.org .

For more information on the Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award, please visit [Awards](#) on the [MichMATYC website](#).

If you are interested in serving on the Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Committee for the 2021-22 academic year, please contact Julie Gunkelman at president@michmatyc.org .

Campus News

Grand Rapids Community College

Carmen Andert

We have had an eventful summer here at GRCC. Three of our full-time faculty members have moved on to other opportunities. Long-time department members John Dersch and Paul Hess have retired, and Andrea Hayes has accepted a position as a Math Interventionist at Holt Junior High. Our department will miss them greatly.

We have hired three of our experienced adjuncts into temporary full-time positions; Monica Bliss, Melanie Forbes, and Nefertiti Williams will be joining us full-time for the 21-22 academic year.

Lansing Community College

Maria Johnson

At Lansing Community College, the Mathematics and Computer Science Department is welcoming three new full-time faculty members.

Colleen Thomas is thrilled to be at LCC and back in the classroom after a 2-year hiatus. With 16 years in education, 13 years in the classroom, and a wide variety of experiences, Colleen has taught middle school, high school, and college-level, in settings including Tanzania, the Bronx, New England, and North Carolina before Michigan. She holds an BA in Math from Albion College and an MA in Secondary Math Education from the City College of New York and is completing a PhD in Cultural Studies from UNC-Greensboro.

Jennifer Flenner has a PhD from Claremont Graduate School in Applied Mathematics specializing in machine learning. She began her career as a civilian scientist working for the Navy. While in that position she received both a distinguished award for most outstanding contribution in the field of Science and Engineering and an academic fellowship. She started teaching in 2015 at her then local Community College in Lake Isabella California. At this job, Jennifer discovered that she loved being a faculty advisor for student clubs and teaching. She has worked with a wide variety of student populations ranging from dual enrollment high school students, to underserved rural communities, to incarcerated students. Her work earned her teaching awards and culminated in a tenure track position at Bakersfield College. She recently relocated to Michigan and taught briefly for both GRCC and MCC. In the next year, she hopes to publish her first

book on Introductory Statistics - Crush Hypothesis Testing Now. (She is currently battling an editor over a never-ending series of image revisions. With diligent work and total dedication of every spare waking moment, it is sincerely hoped that the images will be cleared for publication by winter. This publication is likely to be followed by one in the self-help genre titled: If you really must write a book, then do yourself a favor: be certain that it does not contain any images whatsoever.) Jennifer believes in the mission of Lansing Community College; she is proud to be teaching for the math department. Teaching at LCC is a dream come true!

Justice Odiase obtained his PhD in Mathematics and Statistics in 2006 from the University of Benin. In the past two decades, he has taught Mathematics and Statistics in the University of Benin, Ferris State University and Baker College. Over the years, he has also been involved in research, leading to several scholarly publications in scientific journals, and one of several academics to contribute to the International Encyclopedia of Statistical Science. He is a member of the International Association of Statistical Computing (IASC). In the past, he has served as a Country Representative of the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP), a project initiated by the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), which is the education section of the International Statistical Institute (ISI). In his spare time, he enjoys biking, traveling, sightseeing and scrabble with his family.

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Do you have exciting news, announcements, or updates to share with your colleagues in MichMATYC? Please contact your Campus Representative (see page 7) to include information for the next edition of *The Sum-Times* in February 2022!

Do you want to ensure that the Sum-Times goes out in February? Would you like to be the editor? Please contact Julie Gunkelman president@michmatyc.org. to express your interest in the position.

Campus News

Macomb Community College, South Campus

Jon Oaks

At Macomb’s South Campus, most of our classes continue to be taught remotely except for three sections and that will continue at least through the end of our Winter 2022 Semester. The college began year-round registration this past spring and so that was one factor in making an early call to continue to hold classes remotely as students needed to know what format the course would be in when registering.

Our Associate Dean Mike Somyak retired over the summer and our new Associate Dean Lisa McMillen started with the college on September 8. You may know Lisa from one of her previous roles, including Program Director for Math at Baker College. We’ll all be happy when we’re able to be back on campus to meet Lisa in person.

Did we miss any retirements or new hires? Please contact your campus representative to ensure it makes the February edition of the Sum-Times! Not sure who to contact? Please see page 7 for a list of the campus reps!

Schoolcraft College

Michael McCoy

After a remarkable 41-year career in higher education, Randy Schwartz retired from Schoolcraft College in August 2020. Over the years, Professor Schwartz made countless contributions to the college and forged a myriad of relationships with students, faculty, staff, and community members. His kind and unassuming personality made him a joy to be around, and he will undoubtedly be missed on campus as he enjoys a well-deserved retirement.

In response to our college’s initiative to reform our developmental education program, our department is in the process of creating co-requisite classes to supplement our Quantitative Reasoning and Statistics Pathway MTA courses. Our goal is to pilot these co-req courses in winter 2022 semester. After collecting data and feedback, we will address our college algebra pathway course. Our department feels strongly that the co-req model will serve many students quite well in their goal of completing a college level math course as quickly as possible. However, we are hoping to avoid eliminating dev ed courses altogether, as this would severely hinder students wanting to choose that route towards eventually achieving success in a college level math class.

FUNDAPROMAT

Jon Oaks

Macomb Community College

The Panamanian Foundation for the Promotion of Mathematics (FUNDAPROMAT) is a private non-profit Foundation with a mission to promote the study of mathematics in a fun and innovative way through virtual events, which are free and open to the general public. They believe that math is all around us, knowledge of mathematics increases critical thinking and the power of reasoning and thinking analytically makes you make better decisions in your daily life.

Some of their various math outreach events that are all free and open to the general public include: Virtual Encounters with Outstanding Mathematicians, Math Jamborees, Virtual Origami Classes, Webinars on Recreational Mathematics, and Virtual MathsJams.

Don’t be fooled if you visit their website and see that most of their events are in Spanish. They want you to know that they have an event in English on the first Monday of every month at 6 PM EDT. You can check out their website at fundapromat.org. Scroll down to the ‘What’s New’ portion of the homepage for information on the latest events and most recent recordings. The resources from all events are available to you as teachers so that you can copy the slides.

Lastly, but not least, don’t forget to follow FUNDAPROMAT on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn at @fundapromat. You can also contact them directly at info@fundapromat.org.

Campus Representatives		
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Did You Know?	
<p><i>Jon Oaks</i> <i>Macomb Community College</i></p> <p>Every semester, I try to do at least one thing to improve my classes. This semester I decided to try Calendly to set up appointment slots for my office hours and I will tell you that I couldn't be happier with the results. The Basic version of Calendly is free, and it integrates with Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, and GoToMeeting so that as soon as a student books an appointment, the Zoom link.</p>	<p>is automatically generated and the appropriate email reminders are sent out. I also have Calendly set up so that it's connected to my Google Calendar, but it also can connect with Office 365, Outlook, and iCloud calendars. Anecdotally, I will say that on the very first day I sent out the Calendly booking link to my students, I had several students book appointments with me - and it's the most I've seen students in office hours in quite some time now. So, I'm hoping this lasts throughout the semester.</p>

Event Calendar	
<p>MichMATYC Conference 2022: TBD 2023: Jackson College 2024: Grand Rapids CC 2025: Southwest Michigan College</p> <p>MAA-Michigan Section Annual Meeting 2022: Grand Valley State University, April 8-9</p> <p>MAA MathFest 2022: Philadelphia, PA, August 3-6</p> <p>MAA-AMS Joint Mathematics Meeting 2022: Seattle, WA, January 5-8</p>	<p>AMATYC Annual Conference 2021: Phoenix, AZ, October 28-31 2022: Toronto, ON, November 17-20 2023: Omaha, NE, November 9-12 2024: Atlanta, GA, November 14-17</p> <p>NOSS Annual Conference 2022: Atlanta, Georgia, March 17 - 20</p> <p>NCTM Annual Meeting & Exposition 2022: Los Angeles, CA, September 28 – October 1</p>

MichMATYC Officers & Staff		
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