



# MichMATYC Sum-Times

Two-Year College Mathematics in Michigan

September 2013

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## From Your President – Jack Rotman, Lansing CC

I hope that your new academic year has begun with good things happening at your campus. The work you do, and the success you enable for your students, is very important. Whether a given class deals with solving simple equations in beginning algebra or ordinary differential equations, you have a critical role to play in the education of students in the state of Michigan.

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## MichMATYC Conference 2013

October 4 and 5, 2013

[bit.ly/MichMATYC13](http://bit.ly/MichMATYC13)

The MichMATYC conference will be held on the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College on October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 2013. Please register today if you have not already done so. Registration includes conference registration, lunch, and MichMATYC membership fees. Please make checks payable to: **Oakland Community College**

Mail checks and registration forms to: Joanne Roth, Math. Dept., Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48334-4579

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Robert Talbert of Grand Valley State University. His keynote is entitled “The inverted classroom and peer instruction: Designing classes for meaningful learning experiences”.

*What if you had enough time in class for students to engage in challenging problem-solving activities, intense small group discussions, peer learning, and other meaningful learning experiences every time you met? It's possible -- with the right course design. In this talk we'll examine two course design and teaching methods for creating this kind of classroom environment: the inverted or "flipped" classroom, and the method of peer instruction pioneered by Harvard physicist Eric Mazur. We'll look at research and experiences that suggest that a combination of these two can create engaging, effective learning experiences for students in college-level mathematics classes.*

Robert Talbert is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Grand Valley State University. He received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Vanderbilt University in 1997, where he was a Master Teaching Fellow for the university's Center for Teaching. He has previously served on the faculty of Bethel College (Indiana) from 1997-2001 and Franklin College (Indiana) from 2001-2011.

Robert's scholarly interests center on the scholarship of teaching and learning, primarily in ways that active class environments can be created and used to improve student learning. His particular focuses have been on the inverted classroom, the use of classroom response systems in mathematics classes, the integration of computer programming in college mathematics courses, and other areas where mathematics, pedagogy, and technology come together. He blogs actively about these issues at [Casting Out Nines](#), which is hosted by the Chronicle of Higher Education, and is active on Twitter (@RobertTalbert) and on Google+. Robert, his wife, and their three children (ages 4, 7, and 9) live in Allendale, Michigan.

We have 25 presentations scheduled for the rest of the day. The topics include study skills, real word applications, active learning, alternate paths and more. You don't want to miss the MichMATYC conference this year.

Need more information? Go to [bit.ly/MichMATYC13](http://bit.ly/MichMATYC13) or contact Julie Gunkelman at [jagunkel@oaklandcc.edu](mailto:jagunkel@oaklandcc.edu).

## President's Message (continued from page 1)

As your MichMATYC President, I have the honor of following in the footsteps of many excellent leaders who have developed our organization. MichMATYC exists to provide professional networking and professional development for people intensely involved in the first two years of college mathematics – whether at a community college, a state university, or a private institution. All of our work is completed by volunteers, and I hope that you will consider responding when a call is issued to help with our work.

Your campus should have a MichMATYC Campus Representative (the list is posted at <http://michmatyc.org/campusreps.html> ; send corrections to our web master – Carolyn Castel at [castelc@macomb.edu](mailto:castelc@macomb.edu) . Our Campus Representatives are the single most important part of our organization, and I hope that you will join me in thanking them. Most of the work I do on behalf of MichMATYC involves communicating with your Campus Representative, and they also contribute to our Newsletters. Way to go, Campus Reps!!

There is one area in which we are not doing a good enough job: professional memberships. Few of us hold current memberships. As a group, we tend to only hold a membership in MichMATYC or AMATYC if we attend the conference of that group in a given year. I believe that all full-time faculty and most adjunct faculty (especially those who have or will have taught 5 years or more) should belong to both organizations on a continuing basis. Being a professional has (at its foundation) a basis in membership to state and national organizations of professionals. In our case, you can join both MichMATYC and AMATYC for \$85 per year. You can join MichMATYC online at [www.michmatyc.org](http://www.michmatyc.org), and AMATYC at [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org).

An area that I want to explore for MichMATYC is our life outside of conferences. We may have 125 to 150 people attend our conference, out of a population approaching 1000 faculty (perhaps more). What can we do to help the other 900 faculty, who do not attend our conference in a given year? What can we do for all faculty between conferences? Perhaps you have some ideas on collaborations, professional development, or focused networking that we could support. Perhaps we can facilitate regional connections between colleges and universities. Are there strategies we can share for recruiting and inspiring students to pursue STEM fields ... and especially “M” (Mathematics) fields?

I may be able to come up with some ideas. I think we will do our best work, however, if a larger number of us contribute ideas. So ... please give some thought to the kinds of challenges outlined above. Got ideas? Send them along, or talk to somebody to create more ideas. Feel free to send me a note with initial thoughts, rough ideas, or grand plans. Together, we can create marvelous things!

Jack

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

Greetings. Here is an update of recent activities in AMATYC.

The annual AMATYC conference is scheduled for Oct. 31 – Nov. 3, 2013 in Anaheim, California, at a site very close to Disneyland. Early online conference registration ends October 7, 2013. To see a preview of the conference program, register for the conference, make a reservation at the conference hotel, find a roommate to share expenses, find information on the Delta Airlines discount promotion, find airport shuttle information, and much, much more, visit the conference webpage ([www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org)).

During the conference at the Delegate Assembly, there will be an initial hearing on two position statements: *The Appropriate Use of Intermediate Algebra as a Prerequisite Course*, and *The Academic Preparation of Mathematics Faculty at Two-Year Colleges*. If you would like to share comments related to these statements, please contact your affiliate delegates, **Jack Rotman** and **Doug Mace**, or your state delegates, **Rama Chidambaram** and **Natasha Rivet**.

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## Midwest VP (continued from page 2)

Now's the time to register for this year's Student Math League (SML). The first round of the completion runs from October 18<sup>th</sup> – November 9<sup>th</sup>. To ensure receiving materials in time to compete in the first round and to avoid the late fee, register online by September 30, 2013. Remember, institutional AMATYC members receive free registration, but registration is still required.

Last year Michigan teams and individuals performed very well in the SML competition. Team-wise, Schoolcraft College was first in the Midwest Region (3<sup>rd</sup> nationally) and Oakland CC was second in the Midwest Region. Top individual finishers from Michigan included **Rohit Bhadange** (Schoolcraft, 2<sup>nd</sup> MW region, 6<sup>th</sup> nationally), **Edgar Hu** (Oakland, 3<sup>rd</sup> MW region, 7<sup>th</sup> nationally), and **Sandeep Siva** (Oakland, 4<sup>th</sup> MW region).

Thanks to all Michigan colleges for your continued participation in the SML.

AMATYC continues the year-long webinar series under the leadership of **Jon Oaks**. If you were unable to attend a live webinar, you can access the recorded versions at <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=Webinars>. Recent webinars include:

- *MyMathText* with Rob Knight
- *Teaching Statistics in the Online World* with Michelle Everson
- *FOCUS - A Model Mathematics Co-Requisite Program* with Dr. Selina V Mireles

Did you know that AMATYC is the only discipline-specific national organization focused at the two-year college level? And this unique characteristic offers benefits for members. For example, the AMATYC journal, *MathAMATYC Educator*, offers a publication opportunity to mathematics educators (focused on the first two years of college) not available to those in other disciplines. Please contact **David Tannor**, the journal's editor, if you have an idea for an article.

If you are planning ahead, the 2014 AMATYC conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on November 13-16, 2014. The deadline for submitting proposals for the 2014 conference is February 1, 2014. Please consider repeating one of your MichMATYC presentations or creating a new one. Members around the country would love to hear about the innovative work you do.

AMATYC has recently updated its website. The new website has added several new features including a new online community feature. This feature will allow members from across the country to connect with colleagues with similar interests in online special interest groups. Please take advantage of the new features by joining or renewing your AMATYC membership today.

For more information about AMATYC events and activities, please check out the recent AMATYC newsletter at <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=AMATYCNews>.

Have a great fall semester. I look forward to seeing you at the MichMATYC conference in early October at OCC-Orchard Ridge.

Jim Ham, AMATYC Midwest Vice President

[jaham@delta.edu](mailto:jaham@delta.edu)

September 12, 2013

### MichMATYC Conference 2013

Oakland Community College – Orchard  
Ridge Campus  
[bit.ly/MichMATYC13](http://bit.ly/MichMATYC13)

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### MichMATYC website

<http://michmatyc.org/>

### MichMATYC Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award

<http://www.michmatyc.org/awards.html#Scholarship>

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### MichMATYC is on Facebook

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

### 2013 Annual AMATYC Conference

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

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February 2014

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

The Dow Chemical Company Great Lakes Bay Science & Engineering Festival will be held at Delta College Oct. 4-5. The free two-day festival, hosted by Michigan Technological University and Delta College, is designed to get children, adolescents and their families excited about science and engineering by engaging them in hands-on activities. On Friday, Oct. 4, the festival will host 4,000 middle school students. On Saturday, Oct. 5, it will be open to the public.

### **Henry Ford CC – Jeff Morford**

Much has changed at Henry Ford Community College since the last edition of the MichMATYC Times. The Math and Science Divisions have merged at the College. In the long run this will save the cost of an Associate Dean for the College. The former Science Division Associate Dean, Brian Kirchner, is now head of the combined division. Enough cannot be said about the work Larry Smyrski did over the last 8 plus years. He supervised the Division and kept it running smoothly during a time of unprecedented growth while at the same time helping upper administration plan our move to a new building. He also inspired us to finally make progress on an often started, but never completed revision of curriculum. Larry has returned to the classroom effective this semester.

In the spirit of our combined Division I would like to announce that the College has positions open for Lab Technicians in Biology and Chemistry. Please see <http://wp.me/p10qZx-n7> for more information and share with colleagues who you think might be interested at your school.

Andrea Seavitt has retired after over 28 years of service to the College as a teacher and division director. We will miss her leadership and contributions to the upper division courses. Andrea plans to spend more time gardening in her neighborhood and may volunteer at the Belle Isle Conservatory.

Adam Cloutier has accepted an interim role as Director of Teaching and Learning Support Services. This is a new position on campus. Adam will supervise and provide leadership in professional development of staff, delivery of library services and delivery of tutoring services along with other duties. We wish Adam success in his new position and we will miss Adam's contributions to the success of our students, especially his support of our pre-algebra students.

The Mathematics Department intends to implement a pilot of a developmental-curriculum redesign for STEM-intending students in Fall 2014. This will follow a modular approach and is loosely based on efforts at Monroe County Community College and

other schools national-wide. At the same time we have introduced a Math for Liberal Arts Course and plan to implement a course based on AMATYC's New Life Model to feed that course. The intended audience is students who require few, if any, STEM courses in their program. The College has also completed its transition from UCompass to Moodlerooms.

### **Kalamazoo Valley CC – Lisa Winch**

The KVCC Mathematics Department is excited to announce the hiring of another tenure track math instructor, Kelly Digby. She will be teaching developmental mathematics full time at the downtown campus. This year we'll be continuing discussions on strategies for improving success rates, retention, and placement of our developmental students.

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

On September 13, we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual fall welcome back dinner. This has become a great tradition in which we have a chance to go over any changes with everyone before the fall semester, make sure that everyone has the resources that they need before their classes begin, and we always throw a few door prizes and other surprises in there as well. It has been a very useful and well-received event in our department and we encourage any college that isn't already having one to do so!

One of our classrooms recently got converted to whiteboards. With this change, though, we also agreed that some classrooms need to remain with chalkboards as we have come to understand that everyone in the department has different teaching techniques that may require the use of a whiteboard or chalkboard accordingly. We encourage any college that is considering making any changes to actually survey your faculty before making changes that might negatively affect the department as a whole.

Students in Jon Oaks' classes will be participating in several events around the college and in the community this semester, including: the MATH Challenge in conjunction with our Center Campus, a Math and Diversity Film Event (we're going to show the film *Proof* and have a discussion about the issues that arise in the film afterwards), a Polish Mathematicians Display in the lobby of our library, and a Family Math & Game Night at a local elementary school. Additional events are planned for the future as well.

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

We welcomed Jeremy Mertz to our full-time ranks. We're very excited to have him with us.

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(Mid-Michigan continued) Our administration has chosen to offer dual-enrolled courses at the Huron ISD in the thumb. That's a 2-1/2 hour drive from our main campus, definitely outside our district as well as our region. As this includes up to three different math courses taught at the Huron ISD by new adjunct instructors, we are struggling with how best to provide support so we can maintain consistency across our offerings.

We are continuing to work on our developmental math redesign project. It has a mishmash of objectives coming from an Action Project with the HLC, a Title III grant, and an internal Enrollment Management program. We have spent a lot of time pushing back against the sometimes competing objectives and are happy with our progress. The plan is to have a pilot course ready for this Winter.

### **Monroe CCC – Khadija Ahmed**

Full-time math faculty, and our beloved Dean Vinnie, are looking forward to attending the MichMATYC conference at Oakland CC. We will present update for our developmental math program, including changes to the student enrollment process incorporated this Fall semester.

Other news from MCCC – Dr. Kojo Quartey joined MCCC as the fifth president of the College. His academic background is in economics and finance, and has diverse professional experiences - both administrative and in teaching. He promises positive changes, with a focus on academics. We have also added a new building to campus – with state-of-the art classrooms and lab spaces, the Career Technology Center opened for Fall classes.

### **Mott CC – Bernard Cunningham**

The area full time instructors decided to develop a new course that combines Beginning Algebra (4 credits) and Intermediate Algebra (4 credits) into a 5 credit course. For a STEM student who is motivated and does not know the basic math skills, they could reach Calculus I with taking our Basic Math course (5 credits), the combined Algebra course (5 credits), and Precalculus (5 credits).

### **Schoolcraft College – Lois Bearden**

Fall semester started on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>! We are still adding classes (late start, 12 week versions) due to the enrollment numbers. We are especially excited about the growth in our upper division classes. All sections of PreCalculus (with and without Trig), Calculus I, Calculus II, and Calculus III were closed as of August 27<sup>th</sup>. We added an additional section of PreCalc with Trig and Calc I that start on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>.

We also want to welcome our 2 new hires to the department:

*Lawrence (Larry) Choraszewski*– Larry is very familiar with Schoolcraft having completed his Associate's Degree at Schoolcraft along with being one of the winners of the Mathematics Department's Pythagorean Prize Award. Prior to coming to Schoolcraft, Larry was teaching at Cesar Chavez Academy. He is excited to be working side-by-side with Mathematics Faculty who helped spark his interest and motivation to pursue Mathematics as his major. Larry assumes a General Mathematics Faculty position.

*Paula Schmansky* – Paula is passionate about taking the fear out of Mathematics for students so that they can be successful. Ms. Schmansky employs multiple teaching strategies within the classroom and believes students need to learn mathematics in a safe learning environment. She has taught Developmental Mathematic courses at Schoolcraft and Henry Ford Community College. Paula assumes our Developmental Mathematics Faculty position.

Both plan to attend MichMATYC, so be sure to introduce yourself and welcome them!

We are hoping to introduce a new Tech Math course for Fall, 2014. This course is being developed by Lisa Zaccone, formerly a CAD instructor who was retrained to join the math department.

### **St. Clair County CC – Cindie Wade**

We have lots of new things going on at SC4. We hired a new instructor this summer, Brian Robertson. He comes to us from Flint schools and Baker. We hired him to teach our New Design Math classes at the Developmental level. We have also had to hire MANY new adjunct instructors and amazingly, we found enough to cover all of our classes.

The New Design courses are using the Squires/Wyrick textbook and we have expanded it up to several sections of Elementary Algebra being taught with it. Because of the expansion of the new design courses, we have added another computer lab in the Math area, we are now up to 3 labs-truly amazing!! The Math Center that we opened 2 years ago had to move. We were borrowing the area that was reserved for a Science Museum and they finally got around to working on it this summer. The Center moved to a smaller area, but we will adjust.

We also have adopted a new textbook for our Algebra series-a Blitzer book and many of our students are opting to use just the course compass site, not purchasing the textbook.

All of our classes are very full and we are looking forward to MichMATYC and AMATYC this year.