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# GMATYC News

*A Publication of the Georgia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges*

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## President's Corner

**Don Brown, GMATYC President**  
**Middle Georgia State College-Macon Campus**



As I pondered on what to say here in the President's Corner, I took some time to peruse some of the previous editions of the newsletter. As I read some of the articles and comments left by past authors, it became apparent to me that I was probably following a "tradition" performed by previous GMATYC presidents. In many aspects of our personal and professional lives, we all look back. We tend to take time to reflect on what has been said, written or done in the past. At the end of the day, we all take time to review how our day went. If you are like me, you review your To Do List and "check off" things that have been completed and note things left undone. After each class meeting, you reflect on the various aspects of the class period. You analyze your lectures, your class activities, and whether or not your students learned something. Then, we entertain thoughts and ideas on how to improve things.

Well, now is the time to reflect on GMATYC. When things are going well, we tend to take it for granted. GMATYC has been and is a wonderful organization. It is wonderful because of you, your input and support. Former GMATYC President Kim Robinson once said "*if GMATYC is to continue to grow and adapt to ever-changing educational goals and expectations, the organization needs input from a wide variety of its membership.*" With all of the changes that are occurring in Learning Support mathematics courses, high school mathematics curricula, collegiate mathematics, and the landscape of higher educational institutions in Georgia, there isn't a more significant need for GMATYC and your involvement than now.

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## The President's Corner

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I know that there are very few public or private two-year colleges left in Georgia. Regardless of the institution type, the mathematical foundation that our students receive in the first two years is crucial to their success and their impressions of mathematics. Therefore, GMATYC is important and as President Robinson stated it must grow and change in order to continue to be effective and important. However, this cannot be possible without you.

Therefore, I and the other officers encourage you all to get involved in GMATYC. Yes, we are all very busy and tired. However, involvement does not have to be a huge commitment of your time. You can get involved in GMATYC by attending the annual meeting at the GPC Mathematics conference on Friday afternoon. At the meeting, you can come and share your thoughts, ideas, and meet fellow colleagues. You can say yes to Ann Hardy and the Nomination Committee by becoming an officer or committee member. You can encourage others at your institution to

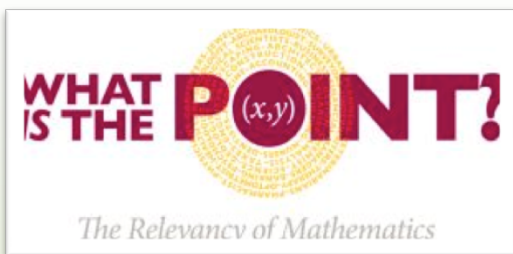
become members of GMATYC. You can share some of the wonderful works and ideas that are occurring at your institution via our newsletter. You can start a discussion about issues that are affecting others across the state on our website and Facebook page. You can claim some of the awards offered by GMATYC that have gone unclaimed over the last few years.

Some of you have already been contacted by President-Elect Maggie Ehrlich or me regarding ways in which you can support GMATYC. Others will be contacted as well. I hope that you respond positively to our friendly invitations. GMATYC does not represent the University System of Georgia. GMATYC represents us. So, let's do something for us and for our students. Support and get involved in GMATYC. What we do in GMATYC can help us to grow professionally and thereby help our students.

Hope to see you and a colleague at the GMATYC meeting in February!

## GPC Mathematics Conference

*Submitted by Chandra Breaux, Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur*



Georgia Perimeter College will host its 27th Annual Mathematics Conference on Friday, February 21 and Saturday, February 22, 2014, on the Clarkston campus. The theme for the upcoming conference is *"What's the Point? The Relevancy of Mathematics."* The keynote speaker this year is Dr. Joyati Debnath, Professor of Mathematics at Winona State University in Winona, MN. Dr. Debnath will focus her discussion on empowering students with mathematical competence.

Also, GMATYC will hold its annual meeting at the conference. For more information, please visit the conference website at <http://depts.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/>. The committee looks forward to seeing you there!

# University of North Georgia's Invitational Sophomore Math Tournament

Submitted by **Gina Reed, University of North Georgia-Gainesville Campus**

Gainesville State College, AKA the Gainesville Campus of the University of North Georgia, will host the 19<sup>th</sup> annual GSC Math Tournament on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Any and all schools that grant 2 year degrees in math, physics, or engineering are invited to send a team to compete in the Tournament. Students are eligible to compete if they have not completed, nor are presently enrolled in any 3000 level Math Courses.

The Tournament has two main events. The morning test is an individual Calculus test consisting of 40 multiple choice questions geared to be accessible to current Calc II students who are at the standard level of the Calc II curriculum up to, but not including the study of infinite series. Calculators are not allowed in the morning event, so it is an old timey paper and pencil and head-bone test.

The afternoon portion of the Tournament is a team competition, (non-calculus problems) with timed questions considered by teams of up to 4 students. Correct answers within the first minute are credited with ten points, within the second minute, nine points, etc. on down to one point for an answer during the last minute. Graphing calculators may be used on the afternoon portion of the competition.

Between the morning and afternoon portions, we break for lunch, which will include a short

presentation by an invited speaker. This year it looks like Dr. Ed Green of UNG (Dahlonge) will be giving the noon time presentation entitled "The Tent Map: Fixed Points, Cycles, Chaos, & Fractals".

After all the scores are tallied, the winning individuals (1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> place) in the morning test, and the winning teams (1<sup>st</sup> thru 4<sup>th</sup>) are announced at an awards ceremony. Winning individuals receive cash prizes, and winning teams get gift cards. Winning schools in the overall competition get trophies, and bragging rights!

More detail is available at <http://ung.edu/mathematics/tournament/index.php> where you will find pictures of past competitions as well as copies of past test questions.

Last year's (2013) Tournament was attended by 175 students and 35 proctors from 17 different campuses from 5 states across the Southeast.

If you have participated in the GSC math Tournament before, please consider coming again this year. If you haven't made it before, please consider this open invitation. If you have any further questions, please email [Delbert.Greear@ung.edu](mailto:Delbert.Greear@ung.edu) or [Minsu.Kim@ung.edu](mailto:Minsu.Kim@ung.edu), the coordinators of this year's event.

## GMATYC Congratulates...

Ginny Powell! She ranks 14th in this year's community college listing at RateMyProfessor.com, the largest online forum for college professor evaluations by students.



## GMATYC Congratulates...

Beryl Boyd! She will be retiring from Georgia Perimeter College this year.

## Consider Nominating a Colleague for the Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award

### *Selection Criteria*

Teaching excellence is the main focus of the Teaching Excellence Award. Criteria for selection are:

- ***Instructional Effectiveness and Support of Students***  
innovative teaching strategies, alternative assessment methods, curriculum development, creating a learning environment for all students, accessible to students in and out of the classroom, etc.

25 points
- ***Professional Involvement and Professional Development/Renewal Activities***  
active participation in professional organizations, speeches, articles, conferences, etc.

10 points
- ***Interaction with Colleagues***  
sharing and discussing ideas with other colleagues

10 points
- ***Service to Departments/Division/College***  
active contributor to college community

5 points

Nominees must be GMATYC members whose primary assigned duties are delivering instruction in an associate degree-granting program. Nominees must have the equivalent of a minimum of 5 years of full-time teaching experience.

# Serving in GMATYC



The Nominating Committee of GMATYC would be pleased to nominate you to be an officer in GMATYC for 2014-2015. GMATYC is an important organization and it needs your expertise. Please consider running for an office. The Committee will be collecting nominations for Secretary, Treasurer, and two new members for the Nominating Committee.

Thank you for giving thought to serving in this professional organization.

## GMATYC Executive Committee

President, Don Brown  
Middle Georgia State College-Macon Campus

Treasurer, Queen Harris  
Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur

President-Elect, Maggie Ehrlich  
Georgia Perimeter College

Publications Chair, Alvina J. Atkinson  
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Georgia Gwinnett College

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Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody



## GMATYC Member

Georgia