



GMATYC News

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

President's Corner

Jessica Craig, *GMATYC President*
Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody

Another academic year is well underway, and a challenging year it is going to be. More students and less money will put a strain on all of us. It is a good thing we love what we do. During the challenges of this year, remember that we are truly making a long term improvement in the lives of our students!

I hope that some of you will be able to join me at the upcoming AMATYC annual meeting in Washington DC, November 20 to 23. The keynote presentation "21st Century Math Education: Promoting Success among All Students" by Dr. Freeman Hrabowski on Thursday sounds particularly interesting. If you can make the conference, please bring back to your institution some of the highlights of the conference. With the travel budgets diminishing, this will give more instructors the opportunity to hear about important issues and new and interesting techniques.

I am happy to introduce you to our new Webmaster, Albert Lu. He now has our website back up and running. He has also reestab-

lished our GMATYC blog. Contribute to our blog. The instructions are linked from the GMATYC website www.gmatyc.org. Albert is very competent at running a website. He has been running the GPC Math Conference website for years. He will do a wonderful job for us. Let's all thank Albert for his hard work for GMATYC.

Consider taking an active role in GMATYC. It is very rewarding working with GMATYC. You get to meet some wonderful instructors and see the important things that AMATYC can do for us. This year we will be electing the President-Elect and two new members of the Nominating Committee.

This year we will also vote on the updated GMATYC Bylaws. Please examine these bylaws on our website www.gmatyc.org. Send any changes or corrections to me, Jessica Craig at

Jessica.Craig@gpc.edu I will update this document on the web before we vote. This vote will be conducted through email similarly to the way we vote for officers.

Mark your calendars for the 22nd Annual Georgia Perimeter Mathematics Conference, February 27 and 28, 2009. The website for this conference is <http://www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/> and this year's conference chair is Jeffrey E. Gutliph. His email is Jeffrey.Gutliph@gpc.edu.

This local conference is a wonderful time for all of us to get together and hear what is happening at other institutions in our region.

Note the article in this issue about the course redesign initiative that is happening at the Clarkston campus of Georgia Perimeter College. We can all learn from what they have done. If you or others at your institution are experimenting with course redesign, please share this with your colleagues. (cont'd on page 2)



Jessica Craig,
GMATYC President

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Inside this issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| President's Corner | 1 |
| News from the Nominating Committee | 2 |
| A Call for Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award Nominations | 2 |
| AMATYC Vice-President's Report | 3 |
| GPC Math Conference | 4 |
| Redesigning L.S. Math Courses | 5 |

President's Corner (cont'd)

You can do this in several ways. You can write an article for the GMATYC newsletter. You can write a note in the GMATYC blog. Or you can give a presentation at the annual GPC

Mathematics Conference. We would all like to hear ideas that work for you or issues that you are addressing.

Lastly, please encourage your colleagues to join GMATYC. GMATYC is a

wonderful organization that addresses the issues we as instructors of the first two years of college mathematics face every day.

News from the Nominating Committee

Ilene Grant, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody

A big thank you goes to the outgoing Nominating Committee members, Ann Hardy and Margaret Ehrlich for their contributions the last two years. We also want to thank Alice Pierce for her great job in setting up the on-line voting for the GMATYC election. Ilene Grant and Robby Williams welcome Alice Pierce and Karen Watson to the Nominating Committee.

For the 2009 election, nominees will be needed for President-Elect and two positions on the Nomination Committee. The committee will be seeking candidates for next year's officer from faculty all over Georgia. Please consider running for a position. Give serious thought to nominating yourself or encouraging a colleague to run

for a position in 2009. The nominations will be collected in November 2008, and the election will be in January, 2009. Please contact Ilene Grant (ilene.grant@gpc.edu) if you are interested in running.

Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award Nominations

Jessica Craig, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody

Do you know of an excellent teacher? Are you an excellent teacher? Nominations for the GMATYC Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award for 2010 are now being accepted.

The winner will become the GMATYC nominee for the AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award for the following year. A one-year membership to GMATYC, a one-year membership to AMATYC and a plaque will also be given to the award winner. The winner will be announced at the February, 2010 GMATYC meeting.

Nominations must be received by Monday, November 30, 2009

Send nominations to:

Dr. Jessica Craig
Mathematics / Engineering / Computer Science Department
Georgia Perimeter College - Dunwoody
2101 Womack Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Nominations should include: a nomination form, a cover letter from the nominator (not to exceed 3 pages), a resume or vita of the nominee, (not to exceed 3 pages), a page letter of recommendation from each of the following: a student, a colleague, and a supervisor (not to exceed 1 page), and a summary of the candidate's most recent student evaluations (not to exceed 2 pages).

For more information check out the link on the GMATYC webpage.

(<http://www.gmatyc.org>)



AMATYC Southeast Vice-President's Report

Donna Saye, AMATYC Southeast Vice-President, Georgia Southern University

Where did the summer go? It seems like a few weeks ago we were finishing up our grading from the spring semester and now we are already a few weeks into the fall. I do hope that you have had a successful beginning to your semester!

As I am writing this article, Hurricane Ike is devastating the gulf coast. It is hard to believe that this area is again being targeted by damaging weather conditions. Why is this important for AMATYC and GMATYC? Are you familiar with the NSF-funded project The Right Stuff: Appropriate Mathematics for All Students? One of the modules created for The Right Stuff deals with hurricanes. The module examines a mathematical model that relates the pressure wind creates (in psf) to the velocity of the wind (in mph). This module has handouts, assessment items, PowerPoints, and other types of files. If you are interested in using this in your classes, please look at <http://www.therightstuff.amatyc.org/materials.htm> for this module and some other examples.

Do you know a colleague who has made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at a two-year college? Is this person an outstanding teacher? Why don't you consider nominating this person for the 2009 AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award? The nomination packet is due on December 8, 2008 and recipients will be honored at the 2009 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Further information is available at <http://www.amatyc.org/awards/TeachingExcellence/index.htm>.

I hope to see a lot of GMATYC members at the annual conference on November 20-23, 2008. The theme of the conference is "Washington, DC - A

Monumental Place for Mathematics." Come find out "Why Physics is Phun?" from David ("Dr. D") Wright of the "NASA Science Files" TV series. Another highlight is the opening session address by Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He will be speaking on "21st Century Math Education: Promoting Success Among All Students."

If you are interested in learning more about AMATYC, there will be three sessions in DC for you:

- AMATYC 101 - Enhancing Your First Conference Experience
- AMATYC 201 - Professional Opportunities Through AMATYC

AMATYC 299 - Leadership and Getting Involved

Come to these sessions to find out what AMATYC is all about! More information about this conference can be found at <http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2008DC/index.html>.

Plans are already underway for the 2009 AMATYC Conference in Las Vegas on November 12-15. The theme of this meeting is "High Expectations". Please consider submitting a proposal to present. Proposals can be submitted at www.amatyc.org beginning November 1, 2008. The deadline for submitting this proposal is February 1, 2009.

There are new things happening with AMATYC's publications.

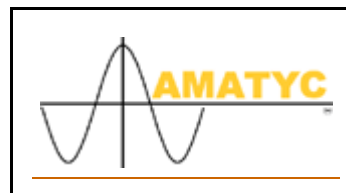
The website www.amatyc.org has a new appearance that will make searching the site easier. The most popular links are located on the home page to make it easier for you. Remember this site contains past publications, job announcements, conference and workshop information, affiliate information, award and election information, etc.

AMATYC *News* is the newsletter of AMATYC that comes out five times a year. There will be a new Focus on Affiliates series beginning with the next issue (October 2008). Affiliate presidents will be invited to submit articles on the great things that they are doing. Make sure NEMATYC President Carol Henry knows what wonderful things you are doing at your college.

The AMATYC Review is being retired with the printing of the Fall 2008 issue. A new journal is being planned and AMATYC needs your help. Articles of interest to two-year college faculty are needed for the new (unnamed) journal. Potential topics include developmental mathematics, placement and assessment, mathematics intensive, teacher prep, innovative pedagogical strategies, division/department issues, and mathematics for AAS programs. Are you doing something innovative in your classroom in one of these areas? Let others know about it by writing an article and submitting it (for now) to Beverly Vance at amatyc@amatyc.org.

I hope that you are already a member of AMATYC and are taking advantage of all the benefits of membership. If you are not a member, go to <https://www.alphacommerce.com/amatyc/membership08.aspx> to become a member and start to enjoy all of the benefits.

I hope to see you in Washington in November. Have a good semester and remember that if you have any questions or input, get in touch with me! I am YOUR representative on AMATYC's Executive Board.



22nd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference

Jeff Gutliph, Georgia Perimeter College

The 22nd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference will be held at the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College on Friday and Saturday, February 27th and 28th, 2009. The conference will be held in the New College Center on Clarkston Campus. The theme for this year's conference is "Technology: R U On-board?"



We are planning to kick-off the conference with technology demonstrations on Friday morning at 10 a.m. and at 11:15 a.m. These demonstrations will be provided by publishers and other vendors. Registration for these sessions is not required.

It is a pleasure for us to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2009 conference is Frank Wilson. Frank has been recognized for teaching excellence while serving students at the United States Air Force Academy, Green River Community College, and Chandler-Gilbert Community College. He was honored to serve for two years as the Chair of the Technology in Math Education Committee of the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges. He is also an active member of the National Council of Teachers of

Mathematics.

Educators around the world have embraced Frank's award-winning mathematics textbooks which focus on teaching mathematics in the context of real world applications. His textbooks Finite Mathematics and Applied Calculus, Brief Calculus, Finite Mathematics, and Applied Calculus are available through Cengage Learning. Three new books (Algebra and Trigonometry, Precalculus, and College Algebra) will be available by 2011.

Frank regularly gives keynote presentations and workshops to inspire educators. He is founder and President of Make It Real Learning Company, a company which creates math worksheets which address the question, "When am I ever going to use this?" Teachers may download free worksheets from www.makeitrealllearning.com.

Frank enjoys fine dining, art museums, swimming, and coaching his son's soccer team. He loves spending time with his wife and five living children.

We have several interesting workshops lined up already:

Addressing Students' Erroneous Concepts of Probability in an Introductory College Statistics Course - Leonid Khazanov & Fred Peskoff, Borough of Manhattan Community College/Department of Mathematics

This workshop will provide statistics instructors with the opportunity to learn about students' faulty conceptions regarding probability. Participants will be informed about common misconceptions and will participate in a variety

of activities aimed at correcting them. In addition, the facilitators will share with the audience their own successes and failures in combating misconceptions. The audience will also play probability games and engage in contingent thinking (i.e. thinking like their students). All participants will receive a package of instructional materials, diagnostic tests, and other useful information.

Discover, Create, and Solve: Engaging Activities that Make Learning Real - Frank Wilson, Chandler-Gilbert Community College, Arizona

In this hands-on session, participants will work through classroom activities that engage students in the learning process. By learning mathematics in interesting real-world contexts, students are able to discover the personal relevance of the mathematics they learn. All participants will be given a packet of learning activities they can use in their classes

We are actively seeking additional workshop presenters. If you would like to offer a workshop or have a suggestion for a workshop please contact Martha Nega at Martha.Nega@gpc.edu

We are seeking parallel session presenters. If you are interested in presenting a parallel session related to mathematics teaching or about the teaching of mathematics in learning support or two-year college level, please send your proposal to Jeff Gutliph at

Jeffrey.Gutliph@gpc.edu . (cont'd on page 5)

Redesigning Learning Support Math Courses

Ashraful Chowdhury and Cindy Box, Georgia Perimeter College

With success rates for the Learning Support Mathematics classes hovering at or below the 50% rate for 10 years, a team of nine mathematics instructors at Georgia Perimeter College decided to redesign the Beginning and Intermediate Math classes in the fall of 2007. It was our goal to increase the pass rates and also to decrease the number of attempts that it took students to complete the courses.

We are now a technology driven society that is inundated with video games, Facebook, cell phones, and iPods. So our team members agreed that traditional lectures are no longer effective in engaging students in the learning process. We decided to implement more technology in the classroom to encourage students to participate. We also wanted to place more responsibility upon the students to learn some of the material outside of class time.

The National Center for Academic Transformation (www.thencat.org) provided useful information on their website to help us create our own strategies. We designed the course to include one day of lecture and one day in a computer lab. The use of a software

program for homework and quizzes allowed the students to work independently during lab day, giving them an opportunity to get help from the instructor as soon as they encountered difficulty with homework problems. We offered an optional open lab on Fridays with one of the math instructors giving tutorial assistance. Videos were posted online for students to watch outside of class for reinforcement of any material covered in class or for topics that we expected them to learn on their own. We used an interactive workbook created as a custom edition of our original textbook. Example problems were removed and replaced with empty boxes where the students were required to write the examples as the instructor went over them.

Certainly there are revisions being made due to problems encountered during those first semesters of this new program. We experienced computer problems in the lab, the book needed editing, there was poor attendance at our open lab days, and students had their own set of troubles with some of the technology. However, we did notice that students enjoyed having time on the computer with an instructor available at the moment they needed

answers to their questions. They also seemed more willing to take notes in order to fill in the examples of their workbook.

Results varied among the classes. While some of the students seemed to embrace the independent learning style, others wanted more classroom instruction. Thus far, the redesign courses have been taught for four semesters. More data is needed as the results are not conclusive yet. There are mixed reviews as some instructors had successful classes and some saw no improvement in their pass rates.

Although we did not follow all of the principles for redesign as given by NCAT, we chose to use technology to get students engaged in the lesson and for their assignments. After incorporating the revisions, this project seems to be showing signs of success. Each semester brings new ideas to the drawing board.

If you have any questions, contact cynthia.box@gpc.edu or ashraful.chowdhury@gpc.edu

22nd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference

(cont'd)

Your proposal must include the following information: names of presenter(s), college or organization, email addresses, daytime telephone number, mailing address, the presentation's proposed title, an abstract of 50 words or less, and a detailed list of needed equipment including any internet access requirements. The deadline for the submission of the proposals is December 15th, 2008.

Also, the Twentieth Annual GMATYC Meeting will be held at the conference.

For more information, please contact the Conference Chair, Jeff Gutliph, at Jeffrey.Gutliph@gpc.edu. If you would like to have your name placed on our mailing list, please contact Albert Lu, the conference registrar, at Albert.Lu@gpc.edu.

For more information and the most recent updates, check the conference website at www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc.





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