



GMATYC News

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

President's Corner

Jessica Craig, GMATYC President
Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody

It is the start of another busy year. A lot is happening with GMATYC and AMATYC. AMATYC will soon be holding its annual conference at which it will launch the Beyond Crossroads document. I hope you have all been reading this document. You will find a link to it from GMATYC webpage, <http://www.gmatyc.org>. You should be hearing more about Beyond Crossroads in the future. GMATYC is one of the endorsers of this document. This year's AMATYC conference will be held in Cincinnati on November 2 – 5, 2006. I am looking forward to this conference. I am sure that I will have valuable information to share with you when I return. I also hope that you can arrange to attend this conference and that you will be able to share what you learn. For more information about AMATYC and the conference read the article by Rob Kimball in this newsletter and visit the website <http://www.amatyc.org>.

As teachers of mathematics at the two-year college level, we all know how important it is to give students a solid ba-

sis for their future mathematics and to teach them the critical and logical thinking that they will need for their future endeavors. However, we know that meeting these goals can be very challenging because of the diverse student population in these classes. We need to stay abreast of the latest techniques, resources, materials, and technology. We must be flexible and adaptable to change. We also need to help each other with these demanding requirements of teaching. AMATYC is trying to help us with the release of Beyond Crossroads. GMATYC is also dedicated to helping us achieve these goals. One of the ways we can help each other is through the new GMATYC blog! The blog is now up and running! Visit this blog. It is linked from our webpage, <http://www.gmatyc.org>. Another way is to become more active in our organization by volunteering to fill positions as they become available. This year we will be voting for two new members of the nominating committee and for the new President Elect.

I am very grateful to Candrada Davis for all of her hard work on GMATYC blog and the GMATYC webpage that it is linked from. Look for her article in this newsletter telling you about our blog. This is a wonderful and convenient vehicle that we can use to share ideas and concerns. It is a very exiting new addition to our website. Please visit the blog and share your thoughts. We all need the support of each other to be successful and to make GMATYC an organization that benefits us all.

Another of my current concerns is with the learning support classes. I am one of the teachers of GPC's new Math 0096 class. I have come to realize that by teaching these students who are the least prepared for college mathematics, I may be making the biggest difference. These are the students who might not be able to achieve their goals without our help. Look for more information about this class in the blog and in the spring newsletter.

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The next Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award will be given in 2008. It is never too early to start considering who would make a good candidate. You could be the next recipient. Find more details at :

www.gmatyc.org

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I also want to invite everyone to come to this year's GPC Mathematics Conference on February 16 and 17, 2007. It promises to be a very exciting conference thanks to the hard work of this year's conference chair, Kouok Law. While you are at this conference, don't

forget to come to the annual GMATYC meeting! Read more about the conference in Kouok Law's article in this newsletter.

Finally, tell your colleagues about our organization. Share your enthusiasm for GMATYC

with others and, if they aren't already members, invite them to join. Our organization is enriched by every member and the more members we have, the richer we will all be for it.

News from the Nominating Committee

Ann Hardy, Georgia Perimeter College

A big thank you goes to the outgoing Nominating Committee member, Beryle Boyd, for her contributions the last two years. We also thank Alice Pierce for her great job in setting up the on-line voting for the GMATYC election.

Carolyn Spillman and Margie Lewkowicz welcome Margaret Ehrlich and Ann Hardy to the Nominating Committee. The committee will be seeking candidates for next year's officers from faculty all over Georgia. Please consider running for a position. Give serious thought to nominating yourself or encourag-

ing a colleague to run for a position in 2007. The nominations will be collected in November and the election will be in January, 2007. For the 2007 election, nominees will be needed for President Elect and two positions on the Nominating Committee.

On The Cutting Edge: GMATYC Blog

Calandra Davis, Georgia Perimeter College

If your GMATYC membership was current at the beginning of September, then you probably received an invitation to join the GMATYC Blog. If you were like me a year ago, you would've wondered, "What exactly is a blog?"

The word *blog* is derived from the phrase *web log*. A web log is a website used by an individual or a group of individuals to share thoughts, opinions, and ideas. Unlike a typical webpage, a blog enables individuals to post comments that are made available on the web almost instantly. Because GMATYC members rarely have the opportu-

nity to talk with fellow members outside of their own institutions, Jessica Craig (GMATYC President) began pursuing ways to open the lines of communications. This blog is a great first step!

To view the blog, you can simply go to the GMATYC homepage (www.gmatyc.org) and then click the link for the GMATYC Blog. Once at the GMATYC Blog, you will find numerous discussion topics on the main page. If you click the "comments" links, you can view existing comments.

Will this blog be successful? That depends on us! Please register with the blog and start a topic, or share your comments on an existing topic. Although nonmembers are able to view the GMATYC Blog, only registered GMATYC members will be able to post comments. Further, there is not a link to our blog on the hosting site, www.blogger.com, so it is unlikely that many nonmembers will be viewing the site.

Didn't receive an invitation to join the blog? Send me an email at cdavis@gpc.edu and I'll get you signed up. Happy Blogging!

News from your AMATYC Vice-President

Rob Kimball, AMATYC Southeast vice-president, Wake Tech Community College

I have attended several national and regional conferences over the past year- all across the country. As an AMATYC officer, I get to promote our organization no matter where I go. In talking with my colleagues, I found that most math faculty in both two-year colleges and universities were aware of Beyond Crossroads, Implementing Mathematics Standards in the First Two Years of College. There may be several reasons for that pleasant finding.

In the process of writing this document, AMATYC has consulted with professionals from the four-year institutions, from the secondary schools, from business/industry, and government. The planning team purposely involved all of our stakeholders in the formation of goals for the document. Then, along the way, we kept asking for feedback on the written document. That involvement paid off.

AMATYC held a press conference on October 5th at the National Press

Club in Washington, DC to officially announce the publication of BC. Attending that press conference were supporters from the MAA, publishing companies, the American Statistical Assn, NCTM, CBMS, the Triangle Coalition, the CC Times, NSF, and AACC, to name a few. It was a grand occasion!

Another reason so many faculty I talked with knew about BC may have been because they were attending a professional development event. They are committed to their profession and want to continue to grow. Thus, they knew about BC.

The release of BC was both an end and a beginning.

The end was marked by a fantastic party at the Freedom Center on Friday night during the conference. Outside funding made the extravaganza incredible. Kudos goes to the local affiliate in Ohio for what they put together.

The beginning was marked by the

release of some of the electronic resources that will help faculty who wish to implement the standards at their school and in their classroom. AMATYC has several plans in the works to continue the efforts to put the document into practice. The degree to which the standards are implemented is the standard by which this document will be measured.

The AMATYC affiliates must take an active role in the efforts to implement BC. Conference could have special sessions on implementation. Newsletters could have an implementation corner to provide an outlet for faculty to share experiences. Officers should include implementation in their strategic plan for their organization.

I look forward to hearing about what GMATYC does!

GMATYC Congratulates...

- ***Moustafa Kanawati and Jennifer Feenstra joined the faculty at Gainesville State College this year***
- ***Karen Watson received tenure at Fort Valley State University***
- ***Heather Howington received tenure at Gainesville State College***



The 20th Annual Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference

Kouok K. Law, Georgia Perimeter College

The 20th Annual Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference will be held at the Lawrenceville Campus of Georgia Perimeter College on Friday and Saturday, February 16th and 17th 2007.

It is a pleasure for us to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2007 Conference will be Dr. Gary Rockswold.

Dr. Gary Rockswold is professor of mathematics at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He has been a principal investigator at the Minnesota Supercomputer Institute and has published several research articles discussing parallel processing and numerical analysis. He is also the author or coauthor of eleven textbooks. He is member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi. Professor Gary Rockswold is most interested in making mathematics meaningful and relevant for students at the developmental and Precalculus level.

The title of his opening address is: "Mathematics, Science, and Reality." People are often fascinated by the strange worlds created by Einstein's relativity, quantum physics, and string theory. However, many times they do not realize that the power of mathematics is capable of guiding scientists in their quest for understanding. This presentation discusses how mathematics is playing an essential role in society and how we can communicate this role better.

We have lined up five interesting

workshops:

Dr. Bruce Wahl, Northern Virginia Community College, will show participants how to incorporate alternative activities in lectures for introductory math courses;

Dr. Fred Peskoff, Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY, will guide us in analyzing the stories of some math anxious students and suggest appropriate courses of action;

Dr. Paul Zorn, Mathematics Department Chair of Saint Olaf College, MN, will illustrate how, with some technological help, we can offer students a livelier, more diverse, and more engaging menu in Calculus;

James Wilson, University of Georgia, will demonstrate the use of the software Geometers SketchPad by examining the Nine Point Circle;

Dr. Gary Rockswold will continue and end his opening address by providing an opportunity for discussion and questions about the power of mathematics in our society.

Also, the Eighteenth Annual GMATYC Meeting will also be held at this conference.

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

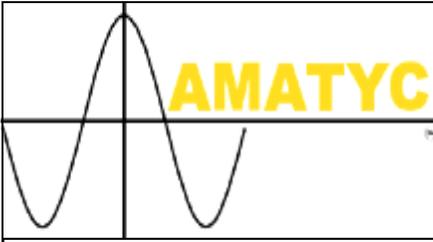
support, please send your proposal to Dr. Jessica Craig at jcraig@gpc.edu. Your proposal must include the following information: names of presenter(s), college or organization, email addresses, day-time telephone number, mailing address, the presentation's proposed title, an abstract of 50 words or less, and a detailed list of needed equipment including any internet access requirements. The deadline for the submission of the proposals is November 17, 2006.

For more information, please contact the Conference Chair, Dr. Kouok Law at klaw@gpc.edu. If you would like to have your name placed on our mailing list, please contact Mr. Albert Lu, the conference registrar, at alu@gpc.edu.

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

As many of us know, Georgia Perimeter College is in the process of phasing out its operation at the Lawrenceville campus, in order to make room for a new four-year institution, the Georgia Gwinnett College. So this might be the last time we will have the

GPC Mathematics Conference there. This year also marks our 20th anniversary, and we are planning something special to celebrate this important milestone. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



AMATYC Student Math League Competition

Alice Eiko Pierce, Georgia Perimeter College

In 2005-2006, over 8000 students from 168 schools in more than thirty-five states (as well as Bermuda!) competed in the AMATYC Student Math League Competition. The test is given in two rounds – one in the Fall and one in the Spring. The team score for each round is based on the top five scores from a school.

Out of the 22 schools that competed in the Southeast region, Georgia Perimeter College tied for #1 with Durham Technical Community College (NC), #3 was Indian River CC (FL), #4 was Catawba Valley CC (NC), and #5 was Wake Technical CC (NC). Gainesville State College came in 16th.

Congratulations to Christopher Becker of Gainesville State College! He had the top total score in Georgia and received \$200 and a plaque from GMATYC.

Nationally, Georgia Perimeter College placed 37th and Gainesville State College placed 124th out of 157 schools.

I encourage more schools in Georgia to participate in the Student Math League Competition. Of the 22 schools in the Southeast region, nine are from North Carolina, seven are from Florida, 3 from Tennessee, only 2 from Georgia, and one from Bermuda. It is a great activity for math students. I don't know what the numbers are at other schools

but at GPC, 108 students participated in the Fall round and 94 students participated in the Spring round.

If your school is an Institutional member of AMATYC (\$435 per year), registration is free. If not, it only costs \$35 to register for the competition (after September 30, add \$15 late fee).

For more information on the AMATYC Student Math League Competition, past results, and competition questions, go to <http://www.amatyc.org/SML/index.htm>.

Announcements



The Thirteenth Annual Math Tournament will be held on April 14th, 2007.

Please see the website for further details: www.gsc.edu/math/tournament.

GMATYC



Webmaster Calandra Davis Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus	Secretary Lisa Yocco Georgia Southern University
Publications Chair Alvina J. Atkinson Fort Valley State University	Past President Donna Saye Georgia Southern University
Treasurer & Voting Coordinator Alice Pierce Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus	President Jessica Craig Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus

GMATYC News

Alvina J. Atkinson, Editor
Fort Valley State University
1005 State University Drive
Fort Valley, GA 31030



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