



GMATYC News

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

President's Corner

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

This has certainly been an interesting semester. A lot of things both exciting and troubling have been occupying my mind. The future offers both opportunities and challenges. Let's make GMATYC a vehicle for helping us navigate these interesting times.

One of the biggest challenges we face in these tough economic times is the Tough Choices, Tough Times recommendations which include the recommendation to merge two-year schools and technical schools. This is particularly troubling because these recommendations seem to be politically motivated, and they were reached without any representation from two-year schools or any consideration for what this will mean to our students. Although many states successfully combine two-year schools and technical schools under the same system, this seems to be best accomplished from the start and not retrofitted later. Let's hope that the final system will be well thought out and that it will be setup to best accommodate our students! It is a

good idea to contact Governor Perdue (Georgia.Governor@gov.state.ga.us), Lt. Gov. Cagle (Casey-Cagle@ltgov.ga.gov), or House Speaker Glen Richardson (glenn.richardson@house.ga.gov), or your state representative to express your thoughts on this proposed merger. The future could be rocky. We need to pull together and organizations like GMATYC are a place to start. (You can read the draft of this proposal at <http://www.gpc.edu/~facsen/senate08-09/Jan%20Meeting/Merger%20Documents/Sept%2018%20Memo%20Scanned%20Version.pdf>)

One very exciting thing that is going on is the explosion of technology options. We are all familiar with the opportunities for experimentation and more realistic application problems afforded us by calculators and computer software packages like Mathematica and Maple. We all have web pages that allow us to share information with our students via the computer. We are also familiar with

the help our students can obtain from web-based study aids and CD packages like MyMathLab, Hawkes Learning System, Web Assist, and Purple Math and many others. Many of us are using iCollege to offer supplements to face-to-face classes, create hybrid classes, or offer our entire class on line. We are also beginning to see how useful technology such as "clickers" can be in stimulating students' interest. Publishers are even beginning to create questions for clickers to accompany their texts. (A low tech way to incorporate this active learning technique into a class is to use colored 3-by-5 cards, one color for each letter choice. The students hold up the card with the color of their answer choice. This was a technique I learned at the last AMATYC conference.) (cont'd on page 2)

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Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1-2
AMATYC Vice-President's Report	3
GPC Math Conference	4
GGC SST Twitter	4
GPC Math Tournament	5
GMATYC Congratulates	5



Jessica Craig,
GMATYC President

President's Corner (cont'd)

But these are only the first wave of options out there! There are electronic reader devices like the Kindle. Students and instructors may eventually be able to carry all of our textbooks (and many more books) on a small electronic reader that weighs only a few ounces. (I just bought one. It is amazing!) There is the iPod we can use to create podcasts of lectures or other material for our students. We can create blogs for our students and ourselves. (Don't forget to contribute to the GMATYC blog.)

Have you checked out YouTube? There is a wealth of information available on YouTube. What about FaceBook? GPC now has a page on FaceBook as does the Dunwoody Learning and Tutoring Center. (The fastest growing demographic on FaceBook is 55+ women who are using it to keep in touch with their families. I plan on joining. That reminds me. I have to go look at my grandson's ninth birthday pictures on my husband's FaceBook account.)

Another way that the web is being used, and this way completely amazes me, is that some schools are now offering credit classes in online created virtual worlds like Second Life! Surely some of these options will catch the interest of today's students. Technology may not be the answer to all of our problems, but oh the opportunities it opens for us! Have any of you successfully used any of these new technologies? If you have, please consider writing an article about the technique and technology you used for the GMATYC Newsletter or give a talk at the next Georgia Perimeter College conference or the next AMATYC conference.

While we are on the subject of conferences, check out the webpage www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc about the Georgia Perimeter College Math Con-

ference which was held on February 27 and 28, 2009. **Jeff Gutliph** did a fabulous job as the chair of this very successful conference. The keynote speaker was **Frank Wilson**. He had some terrific ideas on ways to engage students through real life examples. Check out his website www.MakeItRealLearning.com. The GPC Math Conference website will also be updated with information about future GPC Math Conferences, so check this website in the fall.

GMATYC held its annual meeting at the last GPC Math Conference. At this meeting it was announced that our new President-Elect is **Ralph Wildy Jr.** from Georgia Military College - Martinez. Congratulations Ralph!! It was also announced that the two new members of the Nominating Committee are **Ann Hardy** from Georgia Perimeter College and **Harriet Kiser** from Georgia Highlands College. Congratulations to Ann and Harriet and thank you all for volunteering to serve GMATYC!

If you haven't volunteered for any of GMATYC positions, please do so. This is your organization. Help to make it the kind of organization we need. Taking part of an organization like GMATYC or AMATYC is very rewarding and it will enrich your professional life in ways you may not even expect.

Keep in mind the 35th AMATYC conference November 12 to 15, 2009, in Las Vegas, Nevada. I know the economy may prevent us from attending all of the conferences we would like to, but, if you can find a way to attend this conference, you won't be sorry. If this is anything like the last conference, it should be wonderful. I came away from the last conference with so many ideas. For example, the low tech clicker technique I mentioned earlier and the idea of telling stories or showing gim-

micks to help students remember topics. This story-telling idea was presented in a talk by Thomas Johnson and Lynne Ryan where they dramatized the creation of the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus using a play. What a wonderful way to explain this important theorem. Another example of a gimmick to explain a topic is to use a smiling face with + signs for eyes to denote concave up and a frowning face with - signs for eyes for concave down.

Another project offered by AMATYC is the traveling workshop "The Right Stuff." This year we were fortunate enough to have **Robert Kimball**, **Margie Hobbs**, and **Dana Calland** conduct this workshop at the Clarkston campus of GPC. They did a remarkable job presenting this workshop in which they challenged the participants to use the guidelines given in "Beyond Crossroads" to make changes in their classrooms that would make teaching more effective. They also discussed how to assess these changes. I hope you had the opportunity to attend this workshop. You can find out more about this workshop and others offered by AMATYC on AMATYC's website www.amatyc.org.

Each academic year AMATYC offers the AMATYC Student Mathematics League competition, a series of two tests for students. This year's Georgia winner with the highest cumulative score on the two rounds of this test in the state is **Hanbyul Kim** from GPC, Dunwoody. Her score on the second round test also placed her third in the Southeast region on this second test. Congratulations Hanbyul Kim!

(cont'd on page 3)

AMATYC Southeast Vice-President's Report

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

Hello Everyone in Georgia! One of the duties of the Vice President is to visit the various affiliates at least once during the term of office. I was unable to attend the GMATYC meeting in February, because I had to attend the NADE conference. It is the first time I have missed GMATYC in a very long time, and I am sorry that I could not be there.

I want to encourage each of you to join AMATYC (or renew your membership) and to be actively involved in AMATYC. As a member of AMATYC you will receive the *AMATYC News*, which is a great way to keep up with events in AMATYC as well as events in each of the affiliates. AMATYC is also in the process of redesigning the *AMATYC Journal (AMATYC Review)*, and the first issue will be coming out this year to all AMATYC Members. We recently held a "Name the Journal" contest, and the new name chosen was suggested by two members of AMATYC who will receive free membership for a year. The new name will be the *MathAMATYC Educator*. Plans are for the journal to contain articles more relevant to teaching mathematics to students in two-year colleges. Watch for that first issue!

I would like to encourage you to participate in Summer Institutes sponsored by AMATYC. There will be three of them offered this summer (2009):

Beyond Crossroads Summer
Workshop, June 11-12, 2009,
in Cape Cod, Massachusetts

GAISEing Beyond the Crossroads:
Improving Instruction in Introductory
Statistics—a CAUSEway Workshop,
July 6-10, 2009,
in Boulder, Colorado

Mathematics Across the Community
College Curriculum (MAC³),
July 11-14, 2009,
in Lander, Wyoming

For more information on these, visit
AMATYC's website (www.amatyc.org)
and follow the links.

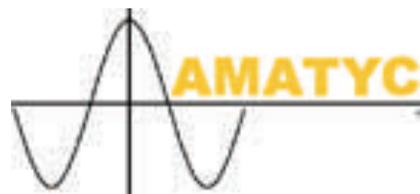
Also, February 26, 2009, AMATYC
(together with ASA) held its first webi-

nar. The webinar was a successful endeavor for AMATYC. Webinars offer an opportunity for professional development without the expenses of travel—which could be of interest to each of you, since your affiliate meeting was cancelled. Watch the website for plans for future webinars.

I hope, too, that each of you is making plans to attend the AMATYC conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 12-15, 2009. Information is on the website.

Thanks!

Donna Saye
VP, SE Region
AMATYC



President's Corner (cont'd)

I want to bring you up to date on the latest with the GMATYC By-Laws. I checked with AMATYC to be sure that our proposed by-laws met their requirements. They did. Also, because of the statement "The proposed changes become part of the By-Laws by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of members responding by mail or email ballot by the deadline stated on the ballot." I will take this as meaning that the majority that voted for these pro-

posed bylaws before our February meeting were enough to ratify the proposal. Therefore, these proposed bylaws will become our official GMATYC By-Laws and will soon be the only ones listed on the GMATYC webpage.

Two last items I want to address. First, encourage your colleagues to join GMATYC. The more members we have the stronger our organization will be and the better we can benefit our

members. Lastly, join the GMATYC blog! This is a good way to communicate with other GMATYC members.

21st Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference

Jeff Gutliph, Georgia Perimeter College

It was a stormy Friday morning. I had gotten up before the sun and arrived at GPC Clarkston campus around 7:30. It was Conference Morning! After months of planning and sweating details I had arrived with great anticipation and apprehension that Friday, February 28th. And then... and then, I saw my co-chair (and Chair of the 23rd Annual GPC Mathematics Conference), Allison Williams. I was relieved to see her. I knew that if a problem arose that freaked me out I could just pass it off to her and she would handle it in a calm and deliberate manner.

Allison and I started setting up our stuff when the book reps arrived. Wow! Do they have a lot of stuff or what! We had just gotten everything set up when breakfast and COFFEE arrived. This was new for this year. The committee felt that since we were getting started with technology demonstrations at 9, we should provide some food for the masses. We plan on doing this again

next year, so, make sure you show up early and get some grub.

It began to rain as people began to arrive. (We had 122 people registered for the conference and at least 20 more were expected to register on-site.) Most importantly the keynote speaker, Frank Wilson, arrived. <whew> Frank was also a workshop presenter. We had 6 workshops this year and 15 parallel sessions. A complete list of the workshops and parallel sessions can be found at the conference website www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/ once there click on the Conference Program link. And, hey, if you didn't fill out the conference survey why not take a minute and fill it out, please. Also, check back regularly for conference photos.

The conference went off well with only a few minor tech glitches. (Allison and I were greatly relieved.) All of the workshops were well attended, even the Saturday ones and especially Frank's. We

had over 50 people join us for dinner Friday night where my crew and I set a record for handing out the door prizes in record time.

I'd like to thank all the members (especially my co-chair) of the 22nd Annual GPC Mathematics Conference for their hard work in making this year's conference a success. And I like to thank all of you who attended the conference. I hope to see you again next year. And if you didn't make it this year we hope you'll put us on your list for next year. We're inexpensive at less than \$50 to register and close.

Jeff Gutliph

Associate Professor of Mathematics

Chair, 22nd Annual GPC Mathematics Conference

P.S. Allison, your turn!

GGC School of Science and Technology Twitter

Alvina J. Atkinson, Georgia Gwinnett College

Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? (From twitter.com)

If the School of Science and Technology at Georgia Gwinnett College was on twitter, what would its tweet say? "We are playing Sudoku and Set, making N₂ ice cream, racing Madagascar cockroaches, calculating carbon footprints and the age of our brains." These activities and others were all a part of the Spring Semester Twitter on April 22, 2009. This event was an end-of-the-year research expo packed with fun scientific activities. One main

focus of teaching at GGC is student engagement. This event allowed students to participate in games, competitions, and other "fun" activities while learning about math, science and technology.

The "tweet" consisted of a several activities from the disciplines within the school, as well as Earth day activities. The mathematics faculty hosted a Sudoku competition and a math puzzle room (which included puzzles from topology, the game Set, and the electronic game Brain Age 2). To celebrate Earth Day, there was a nature hike, an "Imagine a Greener GGC" drawing activity, and carbon footprint calculations. The chemistry

faculty and students made ice cream using liquid nitrogen and put on a chemistry magic show. The biology faculty hosted a roach race and "Yum Bugs" which featured edible bugs. The IT faculty hosted technology demonstrations and displayed student digital media projects. The physics faculty hosted a laser obstacle course. All disciplines hosted the student poster session (several statistics and discrete math students participated) and the science Jeopardy game. The event was well attended and well received by the students. One student commented that it was a great way to relieve stress before finals week. Hearing that confirmed that our event was a success!

Georgia Perimeter College Math Tournament

Bob Koff, Georgia Perimeter College

On April 25, 2009 Georgia Perimeter College hosted its first annual Mathematics Tournament for Elementary School Students. Held on GPC's Dunwoody Campus, the tournament was open to public, private and homeschooled students in the third, fourth, and fifth grades. Teams consisted of four students from each grade level.

The tournament mission was threefold:

- 1- Provide Georgia Perimeter College the opportunity to expand its academic resources out into the community
- 2- Involve our Early Childhood Education Majors in interactions with elementary school students in a mathematical context.
- 3- Have the students experience mathematics in a challenging and entertaining setting in order to foster an appreciation and interest in mathematics.

The competition began at 9:00 a.m. with the students taking a 25 question multiple choice test, with each correct answer awarded 4 points. The test lasted one hour. The questions were created using grade level curriculum

guides from local counties, the Georgia Performance Standards, and the NCTM Standards. Tie breaker questions were also asked of the students in the event of tie scores after the first round. This 25 question test gave us scores for individual students to rank for individual trophies. The students answered on a scantron form and were allowed to keep the test questions.

Round two began at 10:15 and was scheduled for 45 minutes. In this round the four team members in each grade worked cooperatively to solve a series of 10 questions. Four students sat around a desk with a folder on it containing the 10 questions. When told to begin, the students took the first question from the folder and began solving the problem. When they were satisfied with their answer, the student held up the folded paper for collection by one of our GPC student volunteer "runners", turning it in to a "scorer" who graded it. A "timer" called out time at one, two and three minutes. Teams who turned in a correct answer in the first minute were awarded 5 points, those turning in a correct answer in the second minute received 3 points and correct answers in the third minute received 1 point.

After the team speed round, as we called it, students were given a snack break and time to discuss the individual test questions with friends, teachers, and parents while the tournament committee tallied results. The four individual scores of a particular team plus their team speed round score were added together to create a "team score" for each grade level team. The scores of the third grade team, the fourth grade team and the fifth grade team for each school were then added to create a "school team score".

Trophies were awarded to the top five individuals in each grade level, to the top three teams in each grade level, and the top three schools overall. Tournament evaluation forms were handed out during the snack break and collected after the trophy presentation to provide feedback to the tournament committee for future tournaments.

The first place overall school in the inaugural tournament was Gwinnett County's Peachtree Elementary School. We hope to expand the number of teams participating in the future as word spreads of the fun experience had by this energetic group of mathematically talented elementary students.

GMATYC Congratulates

Edna Holcomb, Truett-McConnell College

A member of the faculty of Truett-McConnell College, Cleveland, GA, received a special recognition at the college's annual Honors Day held on April 23, 2009.

Dr. T. Michael Davis, assistant professor of mathematics, received the 2009 Award for Faculty Excellence from Truett-McConnell College. This award

is given each year to a teaching faculty member in recognition of superior skills in classroom teaching and related responsibilities. He and his wife, Joy, live in Cleveland and are the parents of two adult children. Dr. Davis holds a bachelor's degree from North Georgia College and State University, a master's degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry

from Luther Rice University and a Ph.D. from Clemson University. His teaching responsibilities are in the disciplines of mathematics and physical science; in addition, he heads the college's Quality Enhancement Program and chairs the Division of Math, Science and Business. He joined the TMC faculty in 2007.

