



GMATYC News

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

President's Corner

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

Hi again. This has been a very busy semester. As we head toward summer, I hope you can find time to relax. As I write this, my husband and I are packing to go to St John in the US Virgin Islands. I plan on lots of relaxing. He's planning on hikes and snorkeling. Hopefully, we will manage both.

Thanks to the amazing leadership of Andrea Hendricks, **this past year's Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference** chair, this conference was one of the best we have ever had. I greatly enjoyed it!! I hope you were able to join us at this conference. The speakers were wonderful and informative. The Clarkston location was fabulous. The pre-conference morning presentations by the publishers were a big success. At our annual GMATYC meeting at the conference, we met our new president, Jack Robertson. (He has since stepped down from this position. Jessica Craig will continue as acting president until we elect a new president-elect.) We also announced the **newly**

electd officers: Jennifer Feenstra, our new treasurer, and Darren Allen, our new secretary. Congratulations Jennifer and Darren!!! We also heard that Alice Pierce (our former treasurer, who did such an outstanding job) and Karen Watson won positions on the nominating committee. Congratulations Alice and Karen. I am sure that our new officers will do a wonderful job. Next fall we will be calling for a new President-Elect and two more members of the nominating committee. Please consider running. Not only does GMATYC need you, but participating in our organization is very rewarding.

If you missed the conference this year, watch for the conference next year. It promises to be another wonderful conference. Also keep in mind the **next AMATYC Annual Conference** which will be held in Washington, DC on November 20-23, 2008. **The Conference Theme is Washington, DCA Monumental Place for Mathematics.** I am really looking forward to the AMATYC conference.

I think the conference keeps getting better every year, and next year's conference promises to follow that pattern.

If you did not renew your **GMATYC membership** at the conference this year, please do so right away to stay informed about the wonderful things going on here in Georgia. You can find the registration form on the GMATYC webpage at www.gmatyc.org. (Calandra Davis and I will be working on the website this summer. So, please be patient with the site.)

Some of the exciting things that are going on this year are the **Course Redesign** initiatives. The Clarkston campus of GPC is trying out a redesigned learning support mathematics program. (cont'd on page 2)



Jessica Craig,
GMATYC President

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Congratulations!

Phuoc Nguyen of Georgia Perimeter College was Georgia's high scorer on the AMATYC Student Math League Tests.

President's Corner (cont'd)

You will be hearing more about this later. I know many of you are also considering or even starting such redesign options yourselves. A good website to help with the redesign process is: www.thencat.org. While doing so, remember the Beyond Crossroads implementation cycle:

- Define the goals and objectives to be improved;
- Design the materials and procedures you will follow;
- Implement the activity or process and collect assessment data;

- Analyze and evaluate the collected data;
- Identify the things that did not work according to plan and determine needed changes;
- Document results and outline any needed changes.

Then start the process again.

While documenting the results of your course redesign initiative, consider writing an article for the GMATYC newsletter. That way, we can all benefit from your experiences. You can send

articles directly to Alvina J. Atkinson at aatkinso@ggc.usg.edu.

Finally, be sure to look over the new **GMATYC Bylaws** that are included in this newsletter. If you have any additions or corrections, please send them to me, Jessica Craig at jcraig@gpc.edu. I will make these changes and include the updated version in the fall newsletter so that we can vote on these changes before our next meeting in February 2009.

AMATYC Southeast Vice-President's Report

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

At the conclusion of the AMATYC Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, I began my first term as your regional Vice President. It was encouraging to see many members from GMATYC in attendance at the conference. I also enjoyed visiting each of you at the GMATYC meeting during the GPC Conference in February. Remember that at the meeting I asked each of you to join AMATYC (or renew

your membership) and to be actively involved in AMATYC. The AMATYC board has begun even now plans for next year's conference in Washington,

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D.C. on November 20-23, 2008. You could choose to present at a session or preside over a session. Also, be sure to visit the AMATYC website at www.AMATYC.org and look for committees you might like to join or AMATYC events you might enjoy. I hope to see each of you in Washington, D.C.

A New Beginning at Georgia's Newest College

Kim Gilbert, Georgia Gwinnett College

Mathematics Faculty at Georgia Gwinnett College (GGC) are proud to complete our inaugural year with approximately 800 students enrolled. We are offering math courses through Discrete and Elementary Statistics. GGC has a college-wide interdisciplinary approach, so the math *discipline* currently employs 9 faculty with Ph.D.'s Math or Math Education. Our teaching backgrounds include West Point, University of Georgia,

and Spellman College to name a few. We are optimistic about adding 4-5 new faculty for AY 2008-2009. We hope to create a B.S. in Mathematics in the near future.

GGC's mission focuses on student engagement. We are discovering daily that GGC's administration from top to bottom truly supports our endeavors to engage students at all levels of the educational experience. GGC is outcome

focused, and uses assessment to guide instruction and course development.



Georgia Gwinnett College

GMATYC Blog: Fruitful or Flop?

Calandra Davis, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody

A little more than a year ago, GMATYC introduced the GMATYC Blog. A blog, short for web log, is a website that allows individuals to share ideas, news, and opinions by posting comments that are published almost instantly to the website. The comments are listed in reverse-chronological order so that the most recent comments appear first on the site.

Our vision of an active online meeting place for GMATYC faculty across Georgia was not realized with our first

blog attempt. Between login instructions and site navigation, there was much room for improvement. We believe that a blog will prove valuable in the future for GMATYC.

We are looking for a new GMATYC Webmaster. One of the charges for the new Webmaster will be to develop a user-friendly blog for the GMATYC members. Do you have ideas on how to make the blog more successful? Then we may be looking for YOU! If you are interested in being Webmaster, send

your qualifications to Jessica Craig at jcraig@gpc.edu.

The blog was not a flop. Rather, it just needs some fine-tuning before it can meet our needs. So, stay tuned and keep your keyboard handy. We are looking forward to a fruitful blog next year!



Using “Clickers” to Hear Silent Students

Alvina Atkinson, Georgia Gwinnett College

We have all taught large or small classes with students that we see but never hear from. We want to know if all of our students understand the content that we are presenting during the lecture, but we never hear a word from our silent students. It is difficult to gauge whether they fully understand the topic or they are completely lost. Understanding where they are is essential to moving forward with the class and maintaining a comfortable pace. But those silent students will not speak. Why aren't they talking? There are several cases to consider.

Case 1: The student understands the content and is shy about answering.

Action 1: It is safe to proceed with the content.

Case 2: They do not have a clue about answering the posed question.

Action 2: I would spend more time on the topic and provide more examples, but I would not move forward just yet.

There may even be other cases that I have not considered, and at this point my problem becomes clear... I need to get them to communicate with me about what they understand.

Into my life came the student response system (“clickers”). There was some work that was required to get started. I had not used PowerPoint slides regularly, but they would be required if I used the clickers. I needed to download the clicker-software and use it to prepare PowerPoint slides to pose multiple choice questions about the content presented in the lecture. I assigned each student a specific clicker (which I had numbered before class). The receiver fits into my USB drive on my computer, and the student clickers communicate through the receiver to my computer. Once the clicker-question is presented and the responses are entered by the students, the software then generates a report of the responses on the next slide. Both the students and I received immediate feedback on how they responded. I could even program the feedback slide to identify the correct answer. The clickers are about the size of a credit card, and I could tell right away that the students enjoyed using them. This was a promising solution for my problem.

I have found that using clickers during my lectures had many benefits. All of

my students were engaged in the course, and every time I used them, 100% of my students responded. I was excited to see that when they were presented with a clicker-question, they worked to demonstrate their knowledge of the content. Every student was actively involved in the lecture. I was finally able to tailor my lectures and demonstrations based solely on the students' responses, which made better use of our class time. Also, because I assigned a specific clicker to a specific student, I could also track the responses of the students. I was able to pinpoint students who answered all or most of the questions incorrectly, and intervene immediately (with suggestions of meeting with me in my office or assistance with the development of a study plan). I could also avoid having several quizzes to grade each day, which made better use of my preparation time. Although all these benefits are helpful to me in reaching my students, I would have to say that the greatest benefit to using the clickers during my lectures is that each of my silent students finally had a voice.

21st Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference

Andrea Hendricks. Georgia Perimeter College

The 21st Annual GPC Math Conference was held on February 15-16, 2008 at the Clarkston Campus. Over 130 people attended the conference's thirty parallel sessions and four workshops. Conference attendees evaluated the conference very positively. Evaluations of the conference include comments like "well organized, very stimulating sessions, inspired and (re) invigorated, and re-energized!"

The conference embarked on a change this year. We opened with technology demonstrations by textbook publishers. One-hour presentations were made by nine different companies - Brooks Cole Cengage, Hawkes Learning, Houghton Mifflin, McGraw-Hill, Pearson Education, Texas Instruments, Thinkwell, and W.H. Freeman & Company. The conference will have technology demos at the next math conference but there may be a few changes to the process.

The conference was honored to have Dr. Joe Gerda as our keynote speaker. Dr. Gerda gave an outstanding presentation on *Getting Results in the Mathematics Classroom*, the theme of the conference. Joe has been at the College of the Canyons in Los Angeles, California since 1987, where he is currently a professor in the mathematics department where he heads the online curriculum. Since 1988 he has held a variety of leadership positions including Mathematics Department Chair, Division of Mathematics & Sciences Chair, Coordinator for Instruction, Assistant Dean of Instruction & Athletic Director, and a four months stint as a fill-in Vice-President/Dean of Instruction. He has taught Biostatistics at UCLA Graduate School of Public Health and Research Methods to master and doctoral candidates at Ryokan College. He was also employed as a statistician for UCLA Medical Center, Brentwood VA

Department of Neurology, and for private companies. In 1989 he co-founded the Associate Program for Adjunct Instructors, a Hesburgh Award winning staff development activity. This program served as the model for the NSF Foundation CREATE program for which Joseph serves as Facilitator Training Coordinator. His current interest includes teacher training for adjunct instructors, improving online mathematics education and writing a statistics text integrating relevant problems, computer applications, and critical thinking.

The conference workshops were well-attended and evaluated very favorably. The workshops presented were

Learning Style Activities in Community College Mathematics Courses

Presenter: Bruce Wahl, Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus

Statistics Projects

Presenter: Queen Harris, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus

When am I ever going to use this? Ten real-life applications

Presenter: Frank C. Wilson, Chandler-Gilbert CC

Training Teachers on Misconceptions about Probability

Presenters: Leonid Khazanov & Fred Peskoff, Borough of Manhattan Community College

Colleges that were represented at this year's conference include

Bainbridge College
Borough of Manhattan Comm. College

Brewton-Parker College
Chandler-Gilbert Community College
Clayton State University
College of the Canyons
DeKalb County Schools
Devry Institute of Technology
Gainesville College
Gainesville State College
Georgia College & State University
Georgia Gwinnett College
Georgia Highlands College
Georgia Military College
Georgia Perimeter College
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Griffin Technical College
Kean University
Kennesaw State University
Macon State College
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus
Northwest Shoals Community College
Tri-County Technical College
Truett McConnell College
Whitefield Academy

Two high schools were also represented. They were The Howard School and The Lovett School.

The 22nd Annual GPC Math Conference will also be at the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College. The date will be announced soon. The 2009 conference chair is Jeff Gutliph. Please email him at jgutliph@gpc.edu if you have any questions and/or suggestions for next year's conference. Check the conference website at <http://www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc> for information and updates. The call for presenters, the registration form, the conference program and other key documents and facts will be available at the website.

I hope to see you next year.

Gainesville State College Math Tournament

Thomas Hartfield, Gainesville State College

The 14th Annual Gainesville State College Math Tournament was held in Gainesville, Georgia on April 12, 2008, with record participation numbers in both students and colleges.

Representing twelve colleges from five southeastern states, nearly one hundred students competed in this one day event. Students were challenged by a morning individual round involving calculus and an afternoon team round involving algebra, geometry, and other precalculus topics.

For the second consecutive year, Georgia Perimeter College swept top honors in the college, team, and individual categories. Last year's individual winner, Perry Atangcho from the Dunwoody campus of Georgia Perimeter, became the first student in tournament history to successfully defend his individual title.

Along with Perry, two other Georgia Perimeter students finished in the individual top five: Andrew LaFrenier of the Clarkston Campus finished second while Hanbyul Kim of the Dunwoody Campus came in fourth. A total of seven GPC students placed in the top 12 of the individual competition. The Dunwoody campus team of Min Young Jang, Shuen Siang Ng, Chien Wei Wang, and Kim won the afternoon round with teams from the Dunwoody and Clarkston campuses finishing second and fourth, respectively.

Host Gainesville State College along with first time participant Georgia Highlands College each placed students in the top twenty-five morning round.

Students earned cash prizes up to \$400 for placing in the top five in the indi-

vidual round and gift cards up to \$40 for being a member of one of the top four teams.

Overall winners were:

- 1st Place: Georgia Perimeter College, GA
- 2nd Place: Durham Technical Community College, NC
- 3rd Place: Tallahassee Community College, FL
- 4th Place: Catawba Valley Community College, NC

The individual round winners were:

- 1st Place: Perry Atangcho, Georgia Perimeter College—Dunwoody Campus, GA
- 2nd Place: Andrew LaFrenier, Georgia Perimeter College—Clarkston Campus, GA
- 3rd Place: Jinru Wang, Tallahassee Community College, FL
- 4th Place: Hanbyul Kim, Georgia Perimeter College—Dunwoody Campus, GA
- 5th Place: Andres Vargas, Durham Technical Community College, NC

The team round winners were:

- 1st Place: Georgia Perimeter College—Dunwoody Campus, GA
Min Young Jang, Hanbyul Kim, Shuen Siang Ng, Chien Wei Wang
- 2nd Place: Georgia Perimeter College—Dunwoody Campus, GA
Perry Atangcho, David Brandt, Aleksandar Dimov, Eugene Voronkov
- 3rd Place: Durham Technical Community College, NC
Nikolas Blanchet, Teresa Clayton, Kyle Ho, Andres Vargas

4th Place: Georgia Perimeter College—Clarkston Campus, GA

Andrew Foo, Faisal Kayum, Andrew LaFrenier, Chima Onwubiko

Participating Colleges:

- Catawba Valley Community College of Hickory, NC
- Durham Technical Community College of Durham, NC
- Gainesville State College of Gainesville, GA
- Georgia Highlands College of Rome, GA
- Georgia Perimeter College of Clarkston and Dunwoody, GA
- Hiwassee College of Madisonville, TN
- Holmes Community College of Goodman, MS
- Itawamba Community College of Fulton, MS
- Northeast Mississippi Community College of Booneville, MS
- Northwest Mississippi Community College of Senatobia, MS
- Wake Technical Community College of Raleigh, NC

Photographs from the tournament are available at http://www.gsc.edu/math/tournament/pictures_2008.htm.



Proposed Revisions to Bylaws (cont'd on next page)

Jessica Craig, GMATYC President, Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody

Please review the proposed revisions to the bylaws below. The updated portions are in red. This is an updated version of the original GMATYC bylaws combined with the bylaws currently on the web. Send any comments to Jessica Craig at jcraig@gpc.edu. I will send a final version in the Fall GMATYC Newsletter so that you can review it before we vote online on the bylaws prior to the February meeting.

Article 1 - Name

The name of the Association is the Association of Two-Year Colleges

(GMATYC). The Association is affiliated with the American

Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Article 2 - Mission Statement

The Georgia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges is a non-profit, educational association. Our mission is to:

a. **Ensure the preparation of scientifically and technologically literate citizens who are capable of making educated decisions, who have skills needed by business and industry, and who will continue to educate themselves by encouraging the development of effective mathematics programs;**

b. **Afford a state forum for interchange of ideas by serving as a network for communications and actions among faculty across the state of Georgia;**

c. **Develop and improve the mathematics education and the mathematics-related experience of students in their first two-years of college mathematics;**

d. **Promote the professional welfare and development of its members;**

e. **Promote support for and involvement in the America Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATC), and to disseminate information from AMATYC.**

Article 3 - Membership

Any person becomes a member upon filling out the membership form and paying dues for the current membership year. The membership year shall begin at the close of each annual business meeting. Only members of the Association may hold office, nominate candidates for office, or serve on official committees. **Dues are paid by all members at the designated rates set at the annual meeting.**

Only non-student members have voting privileges.

Article 4 - Duties of Officers

The officers of the Association are President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Past President. These officers constitute the Executive Board. The affairs of the Association are conducted by the Executive Board, subject to the authority of the membership.

The President shall:

- Preside at all meetings of the Association, serve as Chairman of the Executive Board, and prepare the agenda for all regular and Board meetings;
- Serve as an ex officio member of all committees;
- Perform all other duties that regularly pertain to the office;
- Organize and coordinate the program of the annual meeting;
- Serve as a delegate to the national

convention of AMATYC;

- Appoint GMATYC delegates to the national convention of AMATYC

The President-Elect or Past-President shall:

- Coordinate publicity and public relations activities
- Act as an ex officio member of the Membership committee.

The Secretary shall:

- Be in charge of the non-financial records of the Association;
- Notify members of Association meetings and Board meetings;
- Be responsible for the official correspondence of the Association;
- Keep accurate permanent records of meeting of the Association and the Executive Board;
- Send membership cards to members.

The Treasurer shall:

- Be in charge of the financial records and funds of the Association;
- Be in charge of all receipts and disbursements of the Association and keep accurate records of the same;
- Make a financial report at each regular business meeting;
- Make an annual report, audited by a supervisory committee before the annual business meeting;
- Propose an annual budget, and, after approval by the Executive Board, present it at the annual business meeting;
- Keep an up-to-date file and mailing list of members of the organization.

The Newsletter Editor shall:

- Oversee the production and distribution of the newsletter on a regular basis;
- Collect and edit appropriate articles for the newsletter;
- Publish notices of meetings, elections, and other official business as determined by the Executive board.

The Webmaster shall:

- Maintain the organizations web-**

Proposed Revisions to Bylaws (cont'd)

The President, Secretary, and Treasurer each serve a two-year term.

The ,Newsletter Editor and Webmaster are appointed by the Executive Board to three-year terms. The President-Elect is chosen one year after the President is elected. The President-Elect automatically succeeds the President at the end of the President's term. The Past-President serves for one year after serving as President. In the event that an officer other than the President leaves office before the expiration of the regular term, the Executive Board shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term. Should the President leave office before the expiration of the regular term, the President-Elect will complete the unfinished term in addition to his/her regular term. If there is no current President-Elect and the office of the President becomes vacant, then the Past-President will serve for the remainder of the business year.

Other positions should be appointed as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. These could include a Voting Coordinator (who will run the on-line elections) and a Listserve Coordinator (who is in charge of maintaining the organizations listserv).

Article 5 - Nominating committee

The nominating committee shall consist of four members elected by the membership. The members will serve two-year terms. Two members will be elected in even-numbered years and two members will be elected in odd-numbered years. The committee shall designate one of its members as Chairman. The nominating committee shall select a slate of nominees with at least one candidate for each office to be filled. Each year the nominating committee will also submit at least two candidates for the two vacant positions on the succeeding nominating committee. Nominations and self-nominations must be received by a member of the

nominating committee no later than 60 days prior to the annual business meeting. These ballots are to be returned to the nominating committee at least one week prior to the annual meeting. The Chair of the nominating committee is responsible for the mailing and tabulation of the ballots. All correspondence may be done electronically.

The Chairman of the nominating committee will report the election results to the President and submit the returned ballots to the Secretary. Elections shall be by plurality of the ballots returned to the nominating committee by the specified date.

Article 6 - Membership Committee

The President shall appoint a committee of six members representing various geographic regions of the state. The President shall designate one of these as Chairman. Each member of this committee shall serve a three-year term with the following exception: two of the original members shall serve one-year terms and two more the original committee shall serve two-year terms. The committee shall be responsible for promoting membership in the Association and member services.

Article 7 - Liaison to the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics

At the completion of the President's term of office, he or she shall be appointed to a two-year term as liaison to the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics Board of Directors.

Article 8 - Amendments to the By-Laws

Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed by a majority vote of the members at the annual business meeting. The proposed changes become part of the By-Laws by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of members responding by mail ballot by the deadline stated on the ballot. Ballots will be prepared, distributed, and tallied by the Executive Board or its delegates.

Article 9 - Elections

Officers are elected by regular members using the procedures outlined in the By-Laws. New officers start their term immediately following the meeting after each election.

Article 10 - Rules

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or By-Laws.

Article 11 - Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved only after an amendment of this Constitution has been adopted that provides for the transfer of all unencumbered funds to an organization with similar purposes.

May 13, 1988

Revised May 1992

Revised January 2008?





Georgia Southern University	Secretary Darren Allen
Georgia Southern University	Past President Donna Saye
Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus	President Jessica Craig
Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus	Treasurer Jennifer Feenstra
Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus	Publications Chair Alvina J. Atkinson
Georgia Perimeter College, Dunwoody Campus	Webmaster Calandra Davis

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