



# GMATYC News

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

## President's Corner

*Donna Saye, GMATYC President  
Georgia Southern University*

Thank you to everyone who attended the GMATYC annual meeting on February 6, 2004. The meeting was held during the Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference (as usual) at the Lawrenceville Campus. If you were unable to attend, we really missed you, and I hope you will make plans to be with us next year. This was the first time I had been to the Lawrenceville campus, and I was **very** impressed! The building is magnificent, and the technology in that building is far beyond what we have at Georgia Southern University!

During the GMATYC meeting, I became President and Alice Pierce became Treasurer. Thank you, Gloria and Tom, for the excellent examples that you have been to us, and I am certain that Alice and I will be calling on you both for lots of help! Diane Wilson will continue to serve as secretary, and I am thankful! Two new members were announced to serve on the Nominating Committee: Beryle Boyd and Ann Hardy--welcome and thank you. Calandra Davis has volunteered to continue to serve as Web-

master, and I am thankful for that also! However, because of the increase in workload in her life recently, she would like to have someone else offer to take over the role of newsletter editor. If you are interested, please contact me at [dbsaye@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:dbsaye@georgiasouthern.edu).

Because membership renewal is done at the conference, and since many could not attend, I would like to encourage you to remember to renew your membership. Contact Alice for that at [apierc2@gpc.edu](mailto:apierc2@gpc.edu) or visit our website <http://www.gmatyc.org>. The GMATYC officers and committee members would like to see membership increase again this year. If you have renewed your membership, please encourage others in your department to join or renew. We would like for our organization to grow to represent every college, university, and technical school in Georgia.

During the GMATYC meeting, a change in the bylaws was proposed to

delete the old bylaw that states that the past president is designated as the GCTM Representative. The proposed bylaw would read: A liaison will be appointed each year by the GMATYC president to be the liaison and attend all GCTM Executive Board meetings and write a report to the GMATYC president about each meeting. The report will be published in the GMATYC Newsletter. Alice Pierce will soon have the electronic ballot ready for voting on the change, so be sure to check your e-mails for information about the voting process.

Also during the GMATYC meeting, the Teaching Excellence Award committee announced our first winner of the award. Congratulations to Gina Reed at Gainesville College on winning that award.

I look forward to working with each of during the coming year. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments about GMATYC. Thanks!

### Inside this issue:

GCTM Liaison Report	2
Professor Frogelfroe	2
"Holy Calculators," Batman!	3
An Obituary for the Regents Quantitative Skills Test	3
GMATYC Congratulates	4



# GCTM Liaison Report

*Kim Robinson, Clayton State College and University*

The new Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), found at <http://www.georgiastandards.org/>, are BEING PROPOSED to replace the old Quality Core Curriculum (QCC). Across all 4 content areas, the same types of changes are being proposed. Overall, the GPS addresses criticisms determined by the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMMS) report.

In general, TIMMS reported the American math curriculum to be "a mile wide and an inch deep." The proposed GPS is modeled on the Japanese system, as well as some stellar American curriculum. The new curriculum will be more rigorous, and more complex while containing fewer standards. For example, the QCC for 3rd grade math includes approximately 50 standards, where the GPS contains less than 20.

The new GPS standards are more specific, giving teachers better direction about the material that must be covered. The curriculum is basically the same, but they are reorganized with an increase of rigor. Making connections are at the heart of the GPS. The pieces of the puzzle are

changed so mathematics can be constructed and seen like a piece of art.

In Fall 2004, Mathematics will begin the transition with 6th grade. Each grade level will have a two-year implementation period so teachers (and students) will not be held accountable on tests for the new curriculum until the second year. According to Kathy Cox, the GDOE State Superintendent, curriculum will drive testing. In the Fall of 2005, k,1,2, and 7 will begin implementation; the third year will bring grades 3,4,5, and 8 into the cycle. All high school mathematics transitions will not occur until the 4th year.

Why not begin with first grade?

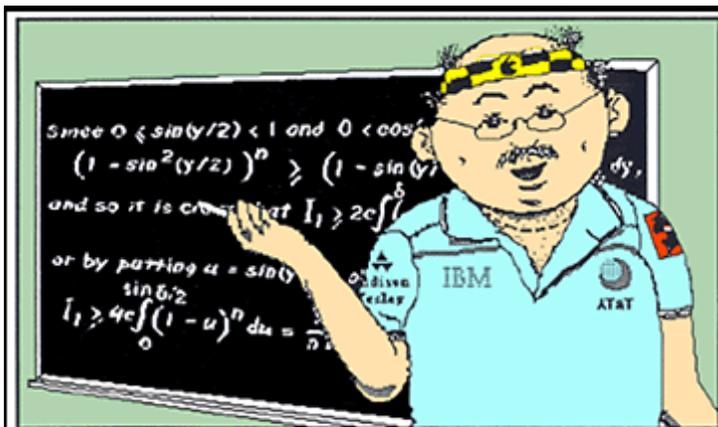
Several factors contributed to their choice of beginning the math changes in the 6th grade. First, and foremost, the change to a performance-based curriculum will not be an easy transition for Early Childhood teachers, who have 3-4 different content areas to cover (they will begin with Language Arts). Another factor is the curriculum itself. According to Carolyn Baldree, the State Math Coordinator, the 6th grade math curriculum is "very lean." In addition, the

NAAP scores for Georgia 5th-grades are consistent with the national average. Our 8th grades scores drop dramatically.

Also, textbooks are perceived to be the most problematic for high school. And, there are many teachers in high school who have only taught lower level math courses. They will need time to review the more advanced material, return to school, or make a career change. And, if you need one more reason, in 2005, the SAT will cover Algebra 2. It will take several years for our 2004 sixth graders to get to the SAT, but that is better than waiting for the first graders!

Even though many components of the proposed Georgia Performance Standards have been criticized strongly since their release over the past few months, it seems that Kathy Cox and her team do have students and student learning at the forefront of all decisions. If you have not taken time to review the materials, I encourage you to do so. Then, as individuals and an organization, we should consider how this will impact teaching mathematics at the two-year college level.

## PROFESSOR FROGELFROE By Ken Kaminsky



Professor Frogelfroe cashes in on the lucrative endorsement craze.

Dr. Ken Kaminsky, Professor of Mathematics at Augsburg College in Minneapolis, is the creator of Professor Frogelfroe. You can learn more from Professor Frogelfroe at <http://mathcartoons.com>.



# “Holy Calculators,” Batman!

## A Message from the Southeastern VP of AMATYC

*Rob Kimball, Wake Tech Community College*

**“Where does he get those wonderful toys?”**

Do you remember that line from the Joker in Batman? I used to hear about what was going on in physics classes, and

had a similar question, “Where do they get all those wonderful toys that help students learn?”

Alas, and its about time, we have some great toys too! Math classrooms are now cluttered with computers, calculators, and calculator-based laboratories; packed with pendulums; stuffed with springs; and bursting with balls, balloons, and buttons. Students are engaged in activities that promote reasoning and critical thinking, data analysis and investigations, and requires them to communicate their re-

sults using technology that aids the organization and delivery of their conclusions. Spreadsheets, a common tool in business, is now a common tool in mathematics. The new TI-84 includes a Cell Sheet APP that allows you to put a spreadsheet in the palm of your hand.

And where do you find out about these toys and how to use them? By attending a great affiliate meeting, like yours last month – by attending a summer institute or workshop – by attending the AMATYC national conference in Orlando next November. AMATYC is dedicated to helping you do your job better. You help by participating and by sharing. Thanks!

With all the toys at our disposal, you can quote the joker: *“Wait til they getta loada me.”*

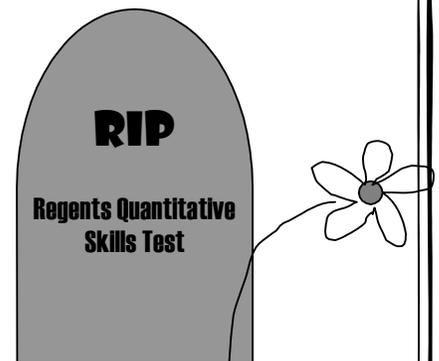
# An Obituary For the Regents Quantitative Skills Test

*Todd Hendricks, Georgia Perimeter College, Lawrenceville*

The Regents Quantitative Skills Test (RQST) passed away recently. Survivors include siblings the Regents Essay Writing Test and the Regents Reading Test. A private service was held in the family chapel located in Atlanta, Georgia.

The RQST was born and raised in an era when accountability was the forefront of Educational Concern. The Board of Regents responded by developing the RQST in an effort to provide the accountability that was expected. The test was to be computer delivered with online modules for remediation if needed. Other disciplines were included in the development to provide coverage of portions of the test material. The grand plans may have contributed to the death of the RQST. Since that time, the demands for accountability have shifted to demands for lower costs. The publicly supported institutions of the Board of Regents were asked to tighten budgets to account for a decrease in tax collections. The RQST, still in its infancy, was a convenient place to extract savings. Whether or not this was an appropriate gesture will be seen and debated over the coming months and years.

The death of the RQST is not an end to its legacy. The Board of Regents’ Advisory Committee on Mathematical Subjects has recently considered a recommendation that a course in Quantitative Reasoning be allowed in Area A under Essential Skills for non-math/science majors. The details are still being developed. The discussion for such a course began to mature during the development of the RQST. Some will bemoan such a course due to its lack of mathematical rigor; others will celebrate a course that seeks to battle the growing problem of innumeracy. These same discussions were had concerning the RQST. Perhaps the RQST is sitting on a cloud watching these discussions with a bemused expression.



Goodbye RQST, we hardly knew ye.....

# GMATYC Congratulates...

- **Gina Reed** of Gainesville College for receiving an AMATYC Input Award at the annual AMATYC meeting November 2003.
- **Jean Millen** of Georgia Perimeter College for receiving a National Organization of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Teaching Excellence Award.
- **Heather Walker** of Savannah Technical College for receiving the Rick Perkins Award (Teacher of the Year) from her institution.



*If you have had an accomplishment or received an award that you would like to share with GMATYC, please send the information to Calandra Davis at [cdavis@gpc.edu](mailto:cdavis@gpc.edu) so it can be included in the next edition of the GMATYC News!*

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