



GMATYC News

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

President's Corner

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

The weather is turning cooler, and the leaves are starting to turn. It is definitely fall. Between furloughs, large classes, and the pandemic fears, this semester has brought new challenges. But, with all of the burgeoning and on-going technology available, it has also brought new possibilities. Websites like <http://www.Wolframalpha.com> put a huge amount of info into the hands of instructors and students. (Maybe too much.) Try searching out info on your home town, or try asking the site to solve an equation and then have it show steps. The real-life, real-time data available here could help motivate and catch the interest of our students. (You don't even need to have Mathematica to use

this site.) The thousands of demonstrations available at <http://demonstrations.Wolfram.com> can also prove very useful ways to visualize mathematical concepts. Again you don't need to have Mathematica to use these demonstrations although it helps. But you can also run the demonstrations by downloading Mathematica Player which is available at the site for free.

It is also amazing to me the enormous amount of software options that are available from publishers. With MyMathLab, WebAssign, Hawkes Learning System, and ALEKS, just to name a few, there are many new options for helping our students learn mathematics. Of course this is on top of all of the other tech

options out there, like iPods, iPhones, Kindle, and online options like FaceBook, YouTube, Twitter, and Second Life. I'm from the age when I started by learning to use slide rules. This all seems a little like magic to me, and I love magic! With all of these options, I think the future looks bright for capturing the attention, imagination, and skills of our students while keeping things fun and interesting for us as teachers. At the moment, however, it still seems a little overwhelming to me. (cont'd on page 2)



Jessica Craig,
GMATYC President

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President's Corner (cont'd)

But I expect we will soon be able to find the best path through all of these options. If you have successfully used some of these technologies, share your success with the rest of us! Write an article for this newsletter or give a presentation at our next GPC Mathematics Conference on February 19 and 20, 2010. (See the article in this newsletter and check the website: <http://www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/>)

You may also want to present at an AMATYC conference. I enjoyed the AMATYC Conference November 12-15 in Las Vegas. It was very interesting, particularly the new Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee as well as the New Life for Developmental Mathematics Project that the Developmental Mathematics Committee is starting. (See the accompanying article in this newsletter.) These groups have been organized to discover ways to incorporate the research shared in the Beyond Crossroads document into both college level classes and learning support classes. This should help all of us improve pedagogy in mathematics instruction at the two-year college level. I came away with lots of new ideas.

There are enrichment opportunities close to home as well. The next GPC Mathematics Conference should be wonderful. Also, Ray Collings is bringing

AMATYC's MAC³ Traveling Workshop to Georgia Perimeter College. MAC³ stands for Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum. This workshop will be presented on January 22 at the Clarkston campus of Georgia Perimeter College. Everyone is invited to attend. The goal of this workshop is to create, modify, and evaluate projects that math and non-math instructors can incorporate in their classes to deepen and reinforce students' mathematical learning. It should be a wonderful workshop. Plan on attending and bring your non-math faculty colleagues along with you! See the article in this issue.

Attending this workshop is just one way to see how rewarding it is to be a part of an organization like AMATYC. There are many ways to become active in an organization. The first step is to join the organization and read the newsletters to keep up to date with AMATYC's latest projects. Then you can join one of the committees, run for an office, or just go to the conference. It will enrich your professional life, I guarantee it, and you will meet interesting and nice people who are also involved in the teaching of mathematics.

You also can become more active in GMATYC. Renew your membership each year in

February. The easiest way to do this is to attend the GPC Mathematics Conference. But you can also join by printing the membership form that is on-line at our website www.gmatyc.org and mailing it along with our small membership fee of \$10 to our treasurer. On this membership form, you can check the box that asks if you are interested in serving the organization. You may then be contacted when we need help. You can also run for office. This year we will be electing a new Secretary and Treasurer and two new members of the Nominating Committee. Consider running for one of these positions. If you are interested in running for office, contact Karen Watson (watsonk@fvsu.edu) the Nominating Committee chair, or committee members Alice Pierce (Alice.Pierce@gpc.edu), Ann Hardy (Ann.Hardy@gpc.edu), or Harriet Kiser (hkiser@highlands.edu).

I have really enjoyed my two terms as GMATYC president. It has been a very rewarding time for me. I am sure our new President Ralph Wildy will also find the position rewarding when he takes over in February. I thank you for giving me this opportunity. It has been a pleasure!

AMATYC Southeast Vice-President's Report

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



It was great seeing everyone who attended the AMATYC Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada! AMATYC had the largest number of attendees ever, and the number of folks from the Southeast was huge! We had a great time at the Riviera Hotel and Casino! There were some outstanding sessions and workshops, and of course, there were great shows and entertainment in Vegas! Survey results regarding the conference

were very positive.

If you did not attend, hopefully you can begin to make plans now for the conference next November in Boston.

Thanks!

Donna Saye
VP, SE Region
AMATYC

36th Annual AMATYC Conference

Nov. 11-14, 2010

Boston, MA

For more information go to AMATYC website

<http://www.amatyc.org/>

It's Time to Volunteer

Karen Watson, Nominating Committee Chair, Fort Valley State University

It is time to find nominees for GMATYC Secretary, Treasurer, and two new members of the Nominating Committee. If you would be willing to serve in one of these positions, immediately send a short bio to Karen Watson, watsonk@fvsu.edu, or Fort Valley State University, 1005 State University Drive, CTM Bldg Room 313, Fort Valley, Georgia 31030.

Responsibilities of each position, as stated in the By Laws, are as follows:

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 meetings 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.

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 Chair-

man. 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.

23rd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Math Conference

Allison Williams, Georgia Perimeter College

The 23rd Annual Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference will be held at the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College on Friday and Saturday, February 19th – 20th, 2010. The conference will be held in the College Center on Clarkston Campus. The theme for the conference is: “Sharing Ideas, Shaping Instruction.”

Registration for the conference begins at 8:30 a.m. on Friday morning. We are planning to kick-off the conference with three thirty-minute blocks of technology demonstrations on Friday morning beginning at 9:30 a.m. These demonstrations will be provided by publishers and other vendors. Registration for these sessions is not required. Please check our website (www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc) for a tentative conference schedule.

It is a pleasure for us to announce that the keynote speaker for the 2010 conference is

Dr. Christy Price. Dr. Price has been teaching at the collegiate level for eighteen years. She is a Professor of Psychology at Dalton State College in Dalton, GA. Dr. Price won the Excellence in Teaching Award at Dalton State in 2007 and the University System of Georgia Teaching Excellence Award in the Two & Four-Year College sector for 2008/2009. She was honored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition as an Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate in 2009. Dr. Price’s awards are, in part, a result of her use of innovative strategies in assisting

students to achieve learning outcomes. Her dynamic and interactive style makes Dr. Price a favorite as a professor and presenter. She regularly presents as a keynote speaker and leads workshops at faculty development seminars and retreats.

As a recipient of an institutional foundation grant award, Dr. Price has conducted research on teaching techniques that influence student motivation. Her most recent research and publications focus on engaging millennial learners and preventing incivility in the college classroom. Dr. Price has completed post-doctoral work in educational psychology at Georgia State University. She holds a Doctorate in community health from the University of Tennessee, a Master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and a Bachelor's degree in social services from Northern Illinois University.

Dr. Price’s presentation, *Why Don't My Students Think I'm Groovy? The New "R"s for Engaging Millennial Learners*, will explore what factors influence student motivation and desire to learn. Obviously, there are some influences beyond the instructor’s control, but research in educational psychology suggests that one thing instructors can do to increase student engagement is to create a learning environment that is in some ways linked to, and supportive of, the current student culture.

We are actively seeking workshop

and parallel session presenters. If you would like to offer a workshop or have a suggestion for a workshop please contact Ginny Powell at Ginny.Powell@gpc.edu

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 Allison Williams at Allison.Williams@gpc.edu. 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 November 20th, 2009.

Also, the Twenty-first Annual GMATYC Meeting will be held at the conference.

For more information, please contact the Conference Chair, Allison Williams, at Allison.Williams@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.

New Life Project: AMATYC Developmental Math Project Summary

From Rob Farinelli, AMATYC President

The New Life Project of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) Developmental Mathematics Committee is working to design and implement a new vision for developmental mathematics. The new vision focuses on developing mathematical reasoning, skills, and critical thinking for all developmental mathematics students as well as creating new academic pathways in mathematics for two-year college students. Students will experience and develop skills with diverse mathematics selected from basic areas, and this content will be designed to involve significant applications that students can identify with in a variety of disciplines and provide strong support for quantitative literacy.

The New Life Project has three goals:

1. Develop consensus around a new Mission Statement for Developmental Mathematics
2. Build curricular models which follow from this Mission Statement with an explicit goal of a reduction in the number of courses a student would need to complete.
3. Build and create support for increasing the “readiness state” of the system (college, state, and national policy) to enable faculty to implement these curricular models.

When this Project is successful, most colleges will have replaced their old developmental mathematics courses with a system reflecting the new models. In addition, the proportion of students who complete their mathematics pathway will have increased dramatically.

Recognizing that these broad changes in the content and delivery of developmental mathematics to two-year college students will necessitate system changes beyond the two-year college classroom, this Project also includes activities that will facilitate dialogue among stakeholders and implement changes at the institution, state, and national levels.

The New Life Project is not the first project to address the needs of the profession; previous efforts have had limited success. Fundamentally, this Project is different because of the process used: the New Life Project seeks to accomplish its goals by inviting more and more professionals into the conversation. We seek common understandings and consensus, rather than expecting professionals to implement somebody else’s best thinking; we will grow and build systemic solutions, rather than encourage the use of separate strategies.

How can YOU become engaged?

Join AMATYC (see <http://amatyc.org/Join-AMATYC/index.htm>)

Join the Developmental Mathematics committee (see <http://devmath.amatyc.org/join.htm>)

Visit the New Life online community (see <http://dm-new-life.wikispaces.com/>)

Developmental Mathematics Mission Statement

Developmental mathematics programs exist in order to prepare students for collegiate mathematics courses, for other courses requiring a mathematical foundation, and for general academic success based partially on quantitative literacy. These developmental mathematics programs will allow flexibility for students, and enable students to consider additional & higher academic goals.

The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) has a 35-year history of offering professional development to the nation’s two-year college faculty. Through its annual conferences, the work of its 44 state affiliates, its services, and the authorship of two national standards documents, *Crossroads* (1995) and *Beyond Crossroads* (2006), AMATYC has led the way to professionalism and scholarship of teaching for faculty.

MAC³ Workshop at Georgia Perimeter College

Allison Williams. Georgia Perimeter College

Are you interested in increasing student success in learning mathematics and using mathematics in other disciplines? Please join us at GPC Clarkston Campus on Friday, January 22, 2010 for an AMATYC sponsored workshop "Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum". This is for math and non-math faculty to discuss examples of implemented math projects that incorporate mathematics into a

variety of disciplines. Successful strategies for curriculum change and collaborative work within and across departments will also be explored.

Facilitators Asa Bradley (physics) and Beverly Vredevelt (math) teach at Spokane Falls Community College (WA). They both work in a variety of interdisciplinary collaboration areas. As department

chair, Beverly has also been instrumental in math curriculum changes resulting in increased student success.

The workshop is free (including lunch), but we'd like to know in advance that you are coming. Send an e-mail to Ray Collings at ray.collings@gpc.edu for more details and to make your reservation.

GMATYC Employment Center Career Opportunities

Georgia Perimeter College Announces the Availability of the Following Positions:

Instructor of Mathematics: Position description: This position is responsible for providing 15-16 hours of instruction per semester in Mathematics and for providing related curriculum and student support as well as student advising. This is a full-time, tenure track position.

Lecturer in Mathematics: Position Description: This position is responsible for providing 30 to 36 hours of instruction per year in Mathematics online and for providing related curriculum and student support as well as student advising. Instructor will be expected to hold at least 10 online office hours per week and to participate in online department meetings. This is a full-time, non-tenure track position.

Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering Department Chair: Position Description: This position is responsible for providing leadership to the faculty and staff under the supervision of the Dean of Mathematics. The Department Chair position is designed to help maintain academic quality and administrative efficiency in the department. The Department Chair must be familiar with best teaching and administrative practices and must be familiar with the College's core curriculum and faculty evaluation system. This is a twelve-month administrative position with tenure tract ranking also requiring 3-4 hours of instruction in mathematics each year. Initial appointment is for a four-year term with reappointment at the discretion of the President.

Instructor of Computer Science: Position Description: This position is responsible for providing 15-16 hours of instruction per semester in Computer Science and for providing related curriculum and student support as well as student advising. Instructor will also be expected to maintain office hours, to attend meetings, and to participate in the governance of the college at the department, discipline, campus and college-wide levels. This is a full-time, tenure track position.

To find our more information about these positions and to apply go to: <https://careers.gpc.edu> .

GMATYC Employment Center

Career Opportunities

Truett-McConnell College Announces the Availability of the Following Position:

Position: Full-time non-tenure track position in Mathematics

Rank and Salary: Commensurate with education and experience, nine month appointment beginning January or August, 2010.

Qualifications: Doctorate preferred (minimum of 18 graduate hours in mathematics required) Commitment to excellence in teaching. Must be an active Christian, fully supportive of the Christian purposes, goals, and objectives of the institution. Capable of successfully integrating his or her Christian beliefs within the context of a liberal arts curriculum and set a Christian example for the students.

Responsibilities: Candidate must be able to teach a full range of developmental, freshman, and sophomore mathematics courses. Teaching experience preferred. Additional work includes advising and serving on committees.

General Information: Truett-McConnell is a private, four year liberal arts college affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention. The campus is located approximately 75 miles NE of Atlanta, in the scenic foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Web page: www.truett.edu.

Application: Please submit a completed application (www.truett.edu à campus services à human resources à prospective faculty), three letters of recommendation, resume, transcripts, and evidence of active church membership to:

Dr. Brad Reynolds
Vice President for Academic Services
Truett-McConnell College
100 Alumni Drive
Cleveland, GA 30528

Deadline: Applications received beginning October 26, 2009. Review will begin November 16, 2009. Position will remain open until filled or until April 30, 2010.

Truett-McConnell College does not illegally discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status; however, the College may discriminate on religious grounds in its employment practices in order to fulfill its mission. Truett-McConnell College is committed to diversity and strongly encourages minority groups to apply. It is the policy of Truett-McConnell College to hire employees who are Christians active in their churches and supportive of the goals of the College. Preferences in hiring exist for people of the Baptist faith. The College can best meet its statement of purpose and its goals and objectives through the recruitment and hiring of suitably talented, qualified employees and the basing of employment practices on the foundation of the recognition of merit.

