



GMATYC News

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

President's Corner

Don Brown, *GMATYC President*
Macon State College

We had a very good turnout for the GMATYC meeting at the Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics conference, and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those of you who attended. It was very refreshing and encouraging to see quite a few new faces, as well as returning ones, at the meeting. Also, it was a very productive and enthusiastic meeting. I want to say thank you to Annette Cook, Southeast Vice President of AMATYC, who attended the meeting as well as the GPC Math Conference. Annette's presentation at the meeting was very supportive and encouraging about our efforts in Georgia. Annette has done a great job on behalf of all of the chapters in this region of AMATYC. Some wonderful door prizes were given to all attending the

meeting. This was due in large part to Annette's encouragement and the AMATYC office.

New officers were announced at the meeting. Maggie Ehrlich, dean at Georgia Perimeter College, was elected President-elect. She will become our new president at the GMATYC meeting in February 2014. Charla Baker of Middle Georgia State College and Ann Hardy of Georgia Perimeter College were elected to the Nomination committee. Also, I would like to welcome back Alvina Atkinson, Georgia Gwinnett College, to the executive committee. Alvina will become the Publications Chair in the Fall. Currently, Jessica Craig is our Publications Chair. Prior to Jessica in this position, Alvina did a wonderful job for the organiza-



tion in this role. To Jessica, the entire organization is very grateful for many years of service to GMATYC as president and publication chair. Thanks Jessica! Furthermore, thanks goes to Ann Hardy, Alice Pierce and the nomination committee for conducting the recent elections.

There are upcoming opportunities for others to serve GMATYC. During the upcoming year we will be electing a secretary, treasurer and two additional members of the nominating committee. If you are interested in serving in any of these roles, please contact me, and I will forward your interest to the Nominating Committee. Furthermore, everyone can become involved in helping the organization increase our (continued on page 2)

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Inside this issue:

President's Corner	1,2
Project R.A.I.S.E. at GPC	3



Send GMATYC Newsletter articles to the new editor
Alvina Atkinson

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27th Annual Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics Conference

February 21 and 22, 2014

Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College

President's Corner

by Don Brown (continued)

membership. The need for mathematics education throughout the state grows, and there are many and various stakeholders involved. GMATYC supports these efforts. Therefore, I urge each of you in your daily activities to encourage your colleagues to join GMATYC. Our membership fee is small, but the need for support from the organization grows.

As our college financial allocations decrease, the need to continue to support professional development and growth increases. In GMATYC, we continue to support our ACCCESS fellows, recognize AMATYC student league winners from our region, provide a donation to the AMATYC conference, and acknowledge award winners from our state. During the past year, we were able to make a special contribution to the Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics conference. However, all of these things are impossible without the continued support and gratitude of our membership. If you or others that you know of have not renewed your membership, please contact our Treasurer, Queen Harris, at queen.harris@gpc.edu. Also, you can download a copy of the membership form from the website at www.gmatyc.org. On behalf of the organization, I thank you for your support of GMATYC.

The 26th annual Georgia Perimeter Mathematics Conference was another super conference. Much appreciation goes to the Georgia Perimeter College Mathematics conference committee. Ginny Powell, Chandra Breaux, and the other members of the committee did an excellent job in providing a local opportunity for professional development and growth. Thank you for allowing GMATYC to be a part of the event and hosting our annual meeting at the mathematics conference. As an organization, GMATYC is very fortunate to have the support of the GPC Mathematics Conference. Many regions and state chapters of AMATYC are not fortunate to have such support that we enjoy and benefit. If you missed the conference, check out the conference proceedings at http://depts.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/26th_proceedings/26th_Annual_GPC_Mathematics_Conference_Proceedings.html, and mark your calendars for the next conference on February 21 and 22, 2014, on the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College.

The upcoming AMATYC conference will be in Anaheim California beginning October 31st. The conference theme is *Math: There is no end to the fun!* Sheila Tobias and Pat McKeague will be among the keynote and featured speakers. Other keynote and featured speakers are David Masunaga and Jim Stigler. The deadline for early registration for the conference is September 30th. There is a wealth of conference information, including information about shuttle service and airline discounts, at <http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2013Anaheim/>. The 40th AMATYC conference will be back in our region at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville Tennessee. Finally, here is a link to the conference proceedings of the most recent AMATYC conference at Jacksonville <http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2012Jacksonville/proceedings.html>

Enjoy your Summer!

Project R.A.I.S.E. Aims to Raise Achievement and Increase Success in Learning Support Mathematics

By **Katrina C. Hunter, Ph.D.,**
Director, Project R.A.I.S.E.; Georgia Perimeter College

As most of the world prepared to ring in the New Year of 2013, the Project R.A.I.S.E. staff at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) was diligently strategizing the development of new intensive support services to be implemented in face-to-face Learning Support Math courses beginning with the spring semester of 2013. According to a report by the nonprofit group Complete College America, about 37 percent of students who start in two-year colleges need remedial courses, and only about 7 percent of those earn an Associate's degree within three years. With the growing number of students who are in need of Learning Support Math, GPC is pleased to offer new strategies to prepare students for success. Project R.A.I.S.E.: *Raising Achievement and Increasing Success in Education*, is a grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) Formula Grant Program which was originally awarded to the college in 2011. The Project focuses on increasing the academic success, retention and graduation rates of students enrolled in Learning Support Math coursework at GPC through strategic course redesign and a comprehensive range of high impact support services.

At GPC, all incoming students are administered the American Collegiate Testing (ACT) COMPASS Placement Exam prior to registration and course selection. The COMPASS measures foundational skills in mathematics, reading and writing. Of the new students entering GPC in the fall 2009, 40% scored so low on the COMPASS they were required to enroll in Learning Support Math. Of these, 51% were African American students. Of this group, only 9.4% of African American males successfully exited Learning Support Math by spring 2010 compared to 11.5% of non-African American males or 11.7% for all non-African American students. For this reason, most support services provided through Project R.A.I.S.E. are designed to positively impact the success of all GPC students enrolled in Learning Support Math with added assistance exclusively targeting the African American male population.

The continued second year PBI funding enabled Project R.A.I.S.E. to hire a qualified, professional team including Academic Laboratory Faculty Supervisors, Student Development Specialists and Tutors to work within the newly redesigned Learning Support Math classrooms alongside GPC faculty on each GPC campus to implement the new services. The high impact support services include learning and study skills assessments, intensive academic coaching, one-on-one tutoring, mentoring, referrals to other GPC departments as needed, and in-class mini-workshops designed to bolster student learning and studying skills. In this new model, needed support is readily accessible to students as they receive services both inside and outside of the classroom.

With the goal of traditional Learning Support Math Education being to provide students with the necessary skills and understanding required to be successful in collegiate level Math, Project R.A.I.S.E. at GPC aims to offer a systematic, holistic approach to addressing the academic needs of students while replacing traditional "one size fits all" methodologies with more modernized approaches to learning. For example, in addition
(continued on page 4)

Project R.A.I.S.E. Aims to Raise Achievement and Increase Success in Learning Support Mathematics

By Katrina C. Hunter, Ph.D., (continued)

to traditional classroom instruction and in-class support services, classroom computers utilize ALEKS, artificially intelligent software that provides the student with instructional assistance such as interactive tutorials, videos, practice exercises and online assessments.

While over the years many programs and initiatives have been developed to improve the state of learning support education throughout the U.S., the added value of the Project R.A.I.S.E. redesign at GPC will certainly ensure that the varying learning styles of all students are acknowledged and addressed.

For more information see the Project R.A.I.S.E. website at <http://depts.gpc.edu/~gpcraise/index.htm>.

Thanks to everyone who was able to be part of the GPC Math Conference this year! We hope you were able to take something away with you to use in your classroom and really engage your students. If you haven't already, be sure to go to the conference website for the Conference Proceedings (<http://depts.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc/>).

Next year, the 27th annual GPC Math Conference will be held on February 21 and 22, 2014, on the Clarkston Campus of Georgia Perimeter College. Hope to see you there!

Chandra Breaux



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

Don't miss the next AMATYC conference!



39th AMATYC Annual Conference
Anaheim, California
October 31 - November 3, 2013



President, Don Brown
Macon State College

President-Elect, Maggie Ehrlich
Georgia Perimeter College

Secretary, Barry Biddlecomb
Georgia Gwinnett College

Treasurer, Queen Harris
Georgia Perimeter College, Decatur

Publications Chair, Jessica Craig
Georgia Perimeter College,
Alpharetta

New Publications Chair, Alvina Atkinson,
Georgia Gwinnett College

Webmaster, Albert Lu
Georgia Perimeter College,
Dunwoody

Get involved in GMATYC! Run for office!

This year we will be electing a secretary, treasurer and two positions in the Nominating Committee

Send nominations to Ann Hardy Ann.Hardy@gpc.edu

Nominate one of our excellent teachers (including yourself) for the GMATYC Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award!

To find out more about this award, go to the GMATYC Website: www.gmatyc.org



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