

GMATYC NEWSLETTER

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Behnaz Rouhani,
Perimeter College at Georgia State University

We have all been students and know that our students are a lot like us. When students enroll in a course, they have certain expectations. Therefore, it is only reasonable that when we teach a course, we should strive to live up to those same expectations. This implies that we should be organized, fair, friendly, etc.

Having said this, we must note that our students are not like us. We cannot expect them to be little mathematicians, especially in elementary courses. Many of them are in class only because it is a prerequisite for their majors. Let's try to remember how we felt when we took French, Biology, or Sociology. There comes a time when enthusiasm and concern of the teacher is not enough. Teachers must search for fresh insights and approaches to capture students' attention and tie together the content. Nothing can be accomplished unless we are realistic about our students and their capabilities. Most of our students come to our classes with little conception of how to handle an unfamiliar subject or what to do if they are in despair. For instance, when we are teaching Calculus, we must bear in mind that we are not teaching present or future clones of ourselves. We must keep in mind this insight as we prepare our lessons and articulate our thoughts. Once there was a mathematician who was assigned to teach a large calculus class. He lectured by filling the blackboard with long rows of tiny, but neatly written scripts. Class was in absolute silence. Half an hour went by, and there were a great many more dense paragraphs written on the board. Suddenly, the lecturer turned around and repeatedly said: "I am sorry, I am sorry." Then he walked back and forth across the front of the room erasing some little words and replacing them with other similar words. This went on for a while. After about five minutes, he turned to the class and said: "I am sorry all, I suppose I was in the subjunctive mood."

I don't know whether you would go as far as saying that this person would never be a good teacher. What I am certain of is that he has a long way to go. His primary judgment error was that he was unaware of his audience.

If we want to influence students to be scientists, math majors, or thinkers, then we must be more than competent in our job. We must be on fire ourselves, and enjoy this craft to the max. The way to ignite this fire is to attend professional meetings where we can brush up on our mathematical pedagogy, experience, etc. This can be accomplished alongside colleagues from around the country by attending the upcoming AMATYC conference in Milwaukee, scheduled for November 14-17. Hope plans are underway for you to be there.

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THE 33RD ANNUAL MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE AT PERIMETER COLLEGE, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

By: Hong Du,
Math Conference Chair

The 33rd Annual Mathematics Conference at Perimeter College, Georgia State University will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 7-8, 2019, on the Clarkston Campus. The theme of the conference is, "Mathemorphosis - It's time for a change!" The conference committee is accepting proposals that address innovative changes that can help mathematics professionals expand their skill sets academically, professionally, and socially. The topics can include but not limited to

- Changes in Technology
- Changes in Pedagogy
- Changes in Assessment Methods
- Changes in Teaching Style

We also accept student proposals on projects/research that apply mathematical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills to connect and address relevant problems and tasks in fields such as biology, physics, engineering and computer science. The presentations can be 20 minute oral presentations on Saturday or poster sessions on Friday and Saturday.

The deadline for proposals is November 1st.

Here is the link to the conference website: www.sites.gsu.edu/pc-gsu--mathconference/



60TH ANNUAL GEORGIA MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE AT ROCK EAGLE

By: Nikita Patterson,
Perimeter College at Georgia State University

The 60th Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference (GMC) will be held October 16-18, 2019 at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonton, GA. This year's theme is part of a two-year plan to focus on Access and Equity. The 2019 GMC will focus on acquiring the key habits of mind that are needed to unlock mathematics for each and every student in our classrooms. The 2020 GMC will focus on how we can use those keys. The conference offers numerous learning opportunities and professional development in mathematics for K-12 classroom teachers, administrators, college students, and faculty. To register, go to gctm.org and click on "GMC at Rock Eagle".



**THE RECIPIENT OF THIS
YEAR'S AMATYC AFFILIATE
SCHOLARSHIP (DISCOUNT
MEMBER CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION- \$360) IS
HONG DU FROM PERIMETER
COLLEGE AT GEORGIA STATE
UNIVERSITY. THIS IS THE
FIRST TIME HONG WILL BE
ATTENDING AMATYC.**

CONGRATULATIONS HONG!



BILL BOMPART TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

By: Nikita Patterson,
Perimeter College at Georgia State University

Do you know a colleague who is doing something innovative in their classroom? Have you implemented exciting and creative strategies for success with your students? This fall, please consider nominating a deserving colleague or yourself for the Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award. The awardee will also become the Georgia state nominee for the AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award.

Selection Criteria

Instructional Effectiveness and Support of Students: Innovative teaching strategies, alternative assessment methods, curriculum development, creating a learning environment for all students, accessible to students in and out of the classroom, etc.	25 points
Professional Involvement and Professional Development/Renewal Activities: Active participation in professional organizations, speeches, articles, conferences, etc.	15 points
Interaction with Colleagues: Sharing and discussing ideas with other colleagues, etc.	5 points
Service to Department/Division/College: Active contributor to college community, department, division, college, other.	5 points

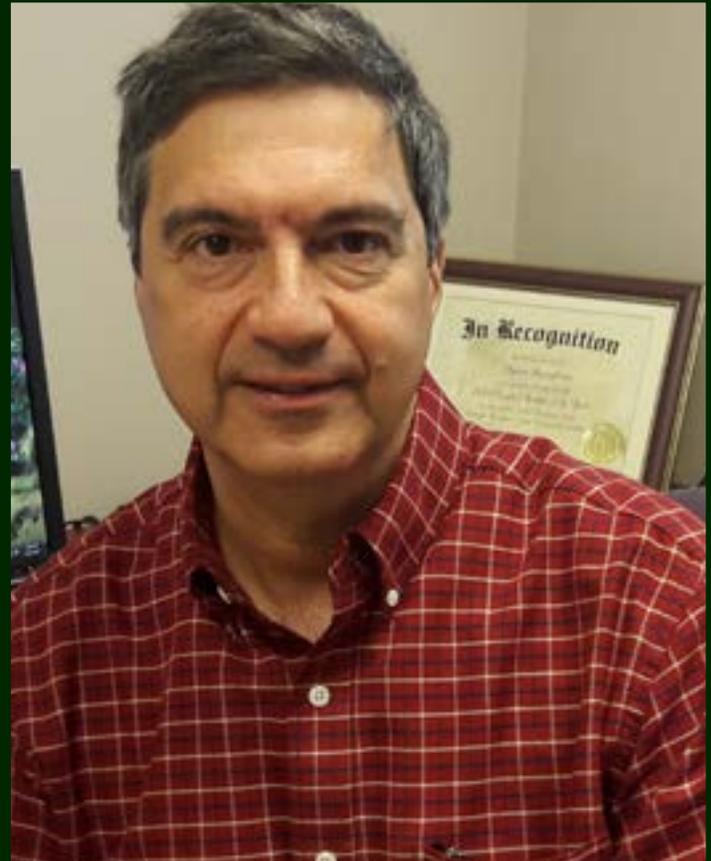
Please visit the GMATYC website for more details and to submit the nomination form:
www.sites.gsu.edu/gmatyc/about-us/bill-bompert-award/



HISTORY OF THE F. LANE HARDY SEMINARS

By: Iason Rusodimos and Barrett Walls,
Perimeter College at Georgia State University

The F. Lane Hardy Seminars, held on the Dunwoody Campus of Perimeter College at Georgia State University, originated after the death of F. Lane Hardy, Chair of the Mathematics Department in the 1980s. During Dr. Hardy's tenure, the seminars were held weekly for faculty members only. Lectures were presented on a variety of technical mathematical topics and well as the history of mathematics. Dr. Hardy passed away in 1989. To honor his dedication and commitment to mathematics education, the seminars continued under the leadership of Professor Iason Rusodimos. In the early 1990's students were invited to attend the lectures as well. In the last few years, Professor Rusodimos and Dr. Barrett Walls have organized the seminars and have presented talks on a wide variety of topics including the following: "Solving the Cubic and Quartic Equations", "Computers and Calculators are Not Always Right", "The History of Cybernetics", "The Origins of Trigonometry", "The $3n+1$ Problem", "If x is larger than y , and y is larger than z , can z be larger than x ?", and "Visualizing Algebra". Last year, students were given the opportunity to not only attend the lectures, but to present talks as well. Student presentation were very well received and more are planned in the future. Approximately three lectures are given during the fall and spring semesters. If you are interested in presenting a talk for an F. Lane Hardy Seminar, please contact Professor Rusodimos, irusodimos@gsu.edu; or Dr. Walls, bwalls@gsu.edu. In addition to Mathematics, anyone wishing to present a talk on Engineering or Computer Science topics are also very welcome.



GMATYC ELECTIONS

By: Stephane Garofalo,
Perimeter College at Georgia State University

GMATYC elections will be here before we know it. This year the positions of Secretary, Treasurer and two positions on the Nominating Committee must be filled. The term of office for each of these positions is two years.

The Secretary's duties include keeping minutes for all GMATYC meetings. The Treasurer's duties include keeping all financial records for GMATYC, making a financial report at each meeting and proposing an annual budget, collecting dues, and keeping an updated membership list based on the dues received.

Members of the Nominating Committee call for nominations, select a slate of nominees for the offices to be filled, run elections and tabulate the results.

Full descriptions for these positions can be found in the GMATYC Bylaws at www.gmatyc.org (About Us). If you are interested in nominating an individual for any position (or self-nominating), please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Lynda Cain (lcain3@gsu.edu), Lisa Yocco (lyocco@ega.edu) or Stephanie Garofalo (Sgarofalo@gsu.edu)

45TH AMATYC ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
MILWAUKEE,
WISCONSIN
NOVEMBER 14-17, 2019

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!



CURRENT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
Behnaz Rouhani

PRESIDENT ELECT:
Nikita Patterson

SECRETARY:
Somaya Muiny

TREASURER:
Sanda Manole

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Margie Lewkowicz

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:
Lynda Cain
Stephanie Garofalo
Lisa Yocco

WEBSITE COORDINATOR:
Stephanie Garofalo

