

# MichMATYC Sum-Times



Two-Year College Mathematics in Michigan

Edited by Jack Rotman, Lansing CC

February 2010



## Treasurer Report by Sam Bazzi

Over 100 members attended the annual conference at Henry Ford Community College this past October. The conference was a success by all means due to your attendance and the quality sessions that our presenters offered. On behalf of the MichMATYC executive board, I would like to thank all of our current members for their continuous support to MichMATYC. Your membership dues, your participation in the annual meeting, and the donations you have made to the student scholarship fund will enable us to continue to offer many services to our members and also continue to support other associations that share similar values. At our October conference, we recognized one student as a scholarship award recipient. This year, we are hopeful that we will be able to offer two awards at \$500.00 each provided that a good number of qualified students apply for the award.

Please encourage students to apply and refer them to our website for more information about due dates and on how to apply. It remains one of our goals to continue to offer such awards. I would like to remind our members that contributions made to the scholarship fund are tax deductible.

This year, our annual conference will be hosted by Muskegon Community College. I hope that all of you are making plans to attend this conference. We currently have 115 active members and we would like non-members to be aware of the opportunities for professional development such as the annual conference. Therefore, we ask for your help to increase our membership by inviting other faculty (part-time and full-time) to join MichMATYC. The annual meeting has been a great way for Michigan two year college mathematicians to meet, present, and share new ideas and methodologies pertaining to teaching and learning.

For a membership form, please refer interested people to our website at <http://www.michmatyc.org>

## From the President

Maria Andersen Muskegon Community College

It's hard to believe that we're in the year 2010. Ten years ago, the Internet was in its infancy, we didn't know what "online homework" was, "recording your lectures" meant using a cassette tape, and "searching" meant that you went to the library. What changes we have seen in the last ten years!

The attention of our students is diverted by TV, video games, Facebook, YouTube, and movies with jaw-dropping 3D effects. When they walk into a college classroom, most of us ask them to leave this stimulating world behind. Personally, I

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think that we have to adapt with this world, or risk losing the interest of a generation of students.

To be a math instructor today, we need to keep updating our skills. The theme for this year's Fall MichMATYC Conference is "Update Your M.I.O.S. (Math Instructor Operating System)" at Muskegon Community College, October 15-16, 2010. We're hoping to line up presentations and workshops that help instructors to update their skills to cope with the digital age and digital-age students, but we need your help and expertise!

How do you cope with laptops and cell phones in the classroom? What kinds of activities do you use to engage students during class time? Do you have tips or guidelines for using group work with students? What Internet resources do you find the most helpful? Do you use a Smartboard or a tablet in your class? Do you record your lessons? Do your students write papers? The fall conference is a time for us to share our learned wisdom with each other.

Please reflect on the changes you've made to your classes in the last ten years, and see if you've got something to share this year. At MichMATYC 2010, we will have 1-hour presentations, 1-hour workshops and a collection of 20-minute sharing sessions, so if you don't have an hour's worth of material to share, maybe you have at least material for 20 minutes. Proposals for MichMATYC presentations or workshops will be due March 15, 2010. Check the MichMATYC website for more information.

On the theme of *Updating Your M.I.O.S.*, Techsmith (a Michigan-based company) has agreed to conduct a full-day pre-conference Camtasia workshop for us on Friday, October 15, so if you've been meaning to learn how to record and edit your lessons, here's your chance.

I would also encourage you to think about attending MAA-Michigan on May 7-8, 2010. If we want to make changes in Community College mathematics, we must work together with our 4-year colleagues to get it done. The conference lineup for the spring MAA-Michigan Conference looks really good this year, and many of the topics will be of interest to community college instructors. With MAA-Michigan on the east side of the state this spring, and MichMATYC on the west side this fall, I hope to see us turn out in good numbers at both conferences.

In other news, MichMATYC has finished gathering all the email addresses of math instructors (full-time and part-time) at community colleges in the state of Michigan. Now that we have the "census" of math instructors, we will be able to contact all the math instructors in the state if a need arises. I hope we'll be able to do a quick update of this list every year, and maintain it for communication and research purposes.

Speaking of research, the MichMATYC executive board approved the use of this list for its first research use, and a

survey about math instructional practices will be sent to all Michigan Community College math instructors late February. Incidentally, this research survey is also the final piece of my Ph.D. dissertation research, so I am grateful for the cooperation of MichMATYC members and the board in helping us track down all the names and emails addresses. By the summer, MichMATYC will know more about what our math instructors are thinking about and struggling with than in any other state!

### **New Life Project for Developmental Mathematics (AMATYC)**

by Jack Rotman, Chair of AMATYC DMC committee, leader of 'New Life' project

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 (<http://devmath.amatyc.org/join.htm>)
- ❖ Visit the New Life project online (<http://dm-new-life.wikispaces.com/>)
- ❖ Join the community bringing new life to developmental mathematics (<http://dm-live.wikispaces.com/>)

Your first step might be visiting this community web site to use the "Guide to New Life" link (the direct link is <http://dm-live.wikispaces.com/NewLifeGuide>) – this is a series of short video presentations on the New Life project. We also have a link to a 1.5 hour video from the AMATYC Symposium <http://www.amatyc.org/videos/NewLife/rotman.html>

## Campus News

### Bay College (Rep: Sarah Flum)

Math-Science Center Information (Coordinator: Kari Divine): A program of Supplemental Instruction is offered to students in Basic and Intermediate Algebra, as well as in several science areas. Supplemental Instruction is a proven strategy to increase student success rates. We began our pilot program in Winter '09 and it is now in full swing. We are seeing improved retention and success rates. We are very proud of our new Math Science Center. It offers facilities for formal and informal study groups and a variety of aids for study in both the math

and science areas. There are computer work stations set up with ModuMath, a software based math practice program, available for students to practice before taking or retaking the COMPASS test, as well as for current students to improve their skills on specific topics.

The center is also a popular area for math and science students to socialize – books, magazines and math puzzles and games are available, and soft seating for students to quietly eat and unwind. A snack preparation area is available for student use.

### Macomb Community College (Rep: Barbara Jur)

Macomb Community College has received an Achieving the Dream grant. One of the areas of concern is developmental mathematics. We are in the planning year.

Enrollment is way up. We have the highest credit hour enrollment ever this term. Seven mathematics classes were added to meet demand including an additional section of differential equations. This is the first time in at least 20 years that we had to add a section of differential equations.

### Mid Michigan College (Rep: David Kedrowski)

Two things here at Mid Michigan Community College. First, I (David Kedrowski) am on sabbatical leave this semester. Second, the department is putting together a Program Review for our Curriculum Committee. This is a holistic look at the department and its associate degree program, with a focus on assessment, relevance, and transferability. All programs at MMCC are expected to do this about once every 5 years.

### North Central Michigan College (Rep: Gary Kersting)

North Central Michigan College has entered the on-line age with their math classes this semester. We are currently offering a section each of Beginning Algebra and Intermediate Algebra in the Hybrid environment where we meet with students 1/3 of the time in a face to face classroom situation and the remainder of the class is done on-line using the Thinkwell curriculum. This is an experiment for us to reach more students and to provide instruction to those who might better learn in the on-line environment. This is a learning semester for us and we would appreciate any advice or discussion from instructors who have delivered courses in this format. Contact Gary Kersting at [gkersting@ncmich.edu](mailto:gkersting@ncmich.edu) or 231-348-6646.

### Schoolcraft College (Rep: Lois Bearden)

Schoolcraft College hired a new full-time member of the mathematics department this Fall, 2009. His name is Michael McCoy. Mike has a BS from

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Western Michigan University, earned his MS in mathematics from the University of Nebraska and has almost completed his PhD (all but dissertation) in mathematics from Nebraska. He is interested in teaching all levels of mathematics and is proving to be an asset to our department.

Michael McCoy, Sandra Kerr, and Lois Bearden all plan to attend AMATYC this year. Kathy Jankoviak/Anderson presented at MichMATYC this Fall.

Kathy Jankoviak/Anderson and Lois Bearden attended the Technology conference at Muskegon Community College. It was intense—sessions for 5 days from 9 am to 5 pm each day. We learned Jing, SnagIt, Camtasia, how to use Bamboo tablets and tablet PCs, how to create an Avatar, how to use “clickers” in class, and Mathematica. Kudos to Maria Anderson and her crew who gave their time and energy to create a wonderful learning experience for us all. Maria’s enthusiasm and tireless efforts are to be envied.

**St. Clair Co. Community College** (Rep: Cindie Wade)

Enrollments at SC4 are way up!! Good for us, but I'm sure it is because of the economy and our many unemployed workers. We have over 700 Michigan Works students and of course, they all need math. Our Math staff has only increased with adjunct faculty, now 5 Full-time and 19 Adjunct, hopefully we will be able to hire some new Full time instructors in the near future, we are stretching our adjuncts to their limits.

Several of us are going to Atlanta to T<sup>3</sup> with registration being paid for by Texas Instrument. Did you know that one of the choices for using your Technology Rewards at Texas Instrument is Registration for T<sup>3</sup> Conference?

## CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### MICHMAA & MICHMATYC SPRING CONFERENCE

PLACE EMU DATE MAY 7 - 8

[HTTP://WWW.MICHMAA.ORG/](http://www.michmaa.org/)

### MICHMATYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE MUSKEGON CC DATE OCTOBER 15-16

<http://michmatyc.org/>

### AMATYC 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE BOSTON, MA DATE NOVEMBER 11 TO 14

<http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2010Boston/>

## MichMATYC

### Teaching Excellence Award

The MichMATYC Teaching Excellence Award was established to recognize the high quality of instruction occurring at Michigan's two-year colleges. The selection criteria used for the award are:

- Instructional Effectiveness and Support of Students
- Professional Involvement and Professional
- Interaction with Colleagues
- Service to the Departments/Division/College

A nominee must be a MichMATYC member currently employed as a classroom instructor in a two-year college or other institution granting only associate degrees. A nominee must have a minimum of 5 years of teaching experience. Individuals can win the award only once..

The nomination form and further details available online at <http://michmatyc.org/awards.html> . ■

## MICHMATYC

### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Each year, MichMATYC awards one or two scholarships (\$500 each) to students who began their mathematics at a community college.

CRITERIA: THE STUDENT MUST HAVE

- Completed a minimum of 12 credit hours, with 6 hours from a Michigan community college , overall college GPA of 3.2
- Completed at least two of the following courses at a two-year Michigan community college: Trigonometry, Statistics, Calculus and/or Above Calculus
- Maintained a 3.5 cumulative G.P.A. in all community college mathematics courses
- Attended a Michigan community college this year

Forms and further details are available on our web site at <http://michmatyc.org/awards.html>

## Call for Papers

The Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC invite papers from students and faculty for the next combined Annual Meeting.

Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, MI  
May 7–8, 2010

Abstract submission will be available at [www.michmaa.org](http://www.michmaa.org). Abstracts can also be e-mailed to Tim Husband at [thusband@sienaheights.edu](mailto:thusband@sienaheights.edu) or faxed to 517-264-7709.

Talks should be 20 minutes in length, including a few minutes for questions. Your abstract must include your name, affiliation, home or office address, phone number, e-mail address, and any equipment needs you have for your presentation. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Husband.

The deadline for abstracts is Friday, February 28, 2010.

Undergraduate abstracts may be submitted until March 26.

Abstracts received after the February 28 deadline will be considered as space permits.

The Michigan Section of the MAA and MichMATYC Annual Meeting (Eastern Michigan University, May 7–8) has announced speakers.

Plenary addresses will be by

- Tim Chartier (Davidson College),
- David Bressoud (President, MAA - Macalester College),
- Annalisa Crannell (Franklin & Marshall College),
- Sheldon Gordon (Farmingdale State), and
- Maria Andersen (President, MichMATYC, Muskegon CC)

In addition, we look forward to local-invited talks given by our Michigan colleagues Steve Blair (EMU), Dave Redman (Delta C), Paul Yu (GVSU), Brian Yurk (Hope C), and Andrew Ross (EMU).

## Call for Proposals – MichMATYC 2010

Muskegon Community College  
October 15-16

Update your “M.I.O.S” – Math Instructor Operating System

Information available soon at the MichMATYC web site ([michmatyc.org](http://michmatyc.org)).

Deadline: March 15, 2010