

# MichMATYC SUM-TIMES

Two Years College Mathematics in Michigan



Edited by Indah [kooswinarsinindyahd@macomb.edu]

September 2015

*Inside this issue: Letter from the president, Save the date, Message from Midwest VP, Campus News.*

## **Letter from the President: Cindie Wade, St. Clair CC**

So I find myself President of MichMATYC again. Thank you Doug, wherever you are. And I must thank Jack also. I believe when he asked if I would take over the presidency for Doug, I told him if nobody else would do it, sure I would. I barely got the message sent and he was congratulating me, I wonder how many other people he asked. I have a feeling it was the null set.

Well, I have nothing profound to say, so I thought I would reflect on all of the changes I have witnessed in my vast years of teaching. Way back in college, where Jan Roy and I discovered we must have been in the same classes at CMU, we used slide rules the CRC Mathematics book of formulas and tables was required for just about every class. We didn't have calculators. I didn't get my first one until I graduated from college, \$80 and it found square roots for me. We also had classes where the blackboards were double and after Mr. Lakey would finish giving us notes on one board, he would push it up and bring down another board before erasing them both. Golly, George Polya was still alive then and fractals were a hot topic!

My first teaching job was Jr. High and High school at Vanderbilt, up by Gaylord. I was the math department, 8 preps every day, 7<sup>th</sup> grade math, 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Calculus, Trigonometry and Consumers Math. Students were not allowed to use calculators, by command of the superintendent. We did some way or other to obtain a PET computer that ran BASIC and saved programs on a cassette tape. I spent my summer teaching myself BASIC, as I learned FORTRAN in college. That added to my classes that I taught, a computer science class.

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**Letter from the President** (Continued from page 1)

I required my students to use pencils and for the first few weeks they had to go to the principal's office to sharpen them, as there was no pencil sharpener in my classroom. My blackboard that I used was at an elementary classroom's height and I found myself on my knees sometimes, just to get all of my information on the board. After 7 years there, I found myself back where I had started life, in Almont and teaching in Romeo schools and part-time at SC4 in the evenings, still no calculators. Eventually Texas Instrument came out with their TI lines of calculators, 85s, 82s, and 86s, I mastered them all, originally with the help of my Tech. Math class that we learned how to use them together.

MichMATYC was beginning to form back then and I remember going to my first meeting, where there were about 25 people or so and we had 2 or 3 sessions, no choice of what we wanted to attend.

Okay, so we no longer have to find square roots by hand, there is no interpolation done for logarithms anymore, shoot, I don't think BASIC is used anymore. I now teach on a SMART Board where I put my notes and post assignments every day to a website including screenshots of my graphing calculator and I can email my students videos of lessons, even for my online classes. Some students don't even use pencils, they take notes on their IPads. I even can fax their test back to students. (Underlined words were never heard of when I started teaching).

MichMATYC membership has grown and we have many more breakout sessions and this newsletter is even sent electronically.

My, the things I have learned being a math teacher.

P.S. No, I did not personally know Pythagoras!

**SAVE THE DATE**



**MichMATYC 2015 Conference**

Bridging the Gap

October 2 - 3, 2015

Macomb Community College

[MichMATYC 2015 Website](#)

Question: [michMATYC@macomb.edu](mailto:michMATYC@macomb.edu)



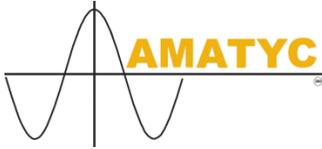
The 41<sup>st</sup> AMATYC Annual Conference

Jazz It Up

November 19-22, 2015

New Orleans, Louisiana

[Online registration is now open](#)



**A Message from the Midwest Vice President of  
AMATYC**  
Jim Ham  
[jaham@delta.edu](mailto:jaham@delta.edu)  
August 25, 2015



Welcome back to Fall Semester and a new academic year! Below you will find a sampling of AMATYC events and information.



Start making plans to attend the 2015 AMATYC conference. The 41<sup>st</sup> AMATYC Annual Conference will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 19-22, 2015. The conference hotel is located in the French Quarter on Canal Street, near all the great food and jazz.

[Online registration is now open.](#) **Early online registration ends October 7, 2015.** For details of our wonderful conference, visit the AMATYC website.

Affiliate Scholarship Continues! One member from MichMATYC will receive a free conference registration.



Each year AMATYC offers a 2-round mathematics competition for two-year college students. Students from across the country and beyond participate in the competition. As you can see from the table to the right, Michigan two-year college teams performed well in last year's competition, taking the top three places in the Midwest region. The deadline to participate in this year's competition is September 30, 2015.

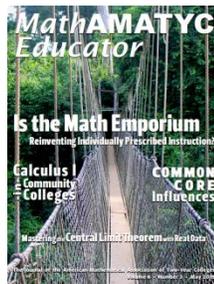
**Midwest Region Team Standings**

Rank	Team	Score
1	Macomb CC	222.0
2	Schoolcraft College	193.0
3	Oakland CC	181.5
4	College of DuPage	175.5
5	College of Lake County	170.5



The August 2015 edition of the AMATYC newsletter is available online [here](#).

For more information on recent AMATYC events and activities, download past editions of the *AMATYC News* [here](#).



The *MathAMATYC Educator* is published three times per year and is now available online. Members now have access to all past and present editions of the AMATYC journal.

The May 2015 edition of the *MathAMATYC Educator* is now available online [here](#).



**Upcoming AMATYC Webinars**

October 7, 2015  
*Improving Retention Through Placement Tests*

October 16, 2015  
*Teaching and Learning Strategies for Infinite Series: Limits of Partial Sums*

Registration for these webinars is now open! To view or see a listing of past webinars, visit the [AMATYC webinar library](#).

The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges is the only national organization focused solely on issues related to mathematics education in the first two years of college. Adjunct and full time faculty at 2- and 4-year colleges and universities are encouraged to join. If you are already a member of AMATYC, you are well aware of what AMATYC has to offer. If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to visit the website at <http://www.amatyc.org> and become a member.

Current AMATYC membership rates:

- Full-time individual: \$85 per year
- Part-time/Adjunct: \$42.50 per year
- Retired: \$42.50 per year
- Institutional: \$495 per year

I look forward to seeing you at the MichMATYC Fall Conference at Macomb Community College, or at the annual AMATYC conference in New Orleans.

~~~~~ **CAMPUS NEWS** ~~~~~

**Alpena CC - Dan Rothe**

As I write this report, registration week is in progress and the weather is hot and humid. Enrollment numbers are down for us, we don't have final figures yet but we hear numbers between -6.6% and -9.5%. Steve Lewis is on sabbatical preparing for his new role in the Electrical Power Technology Bachelor's program which will begin in 2016. Jim Berles continues his work with GIS in connection with the Marine Technology Program. He and Dave Cummins (Drafting/CAD instructor) have new office and computer lab space in the old electrical area which was vacated when the new electrical building opened last spring. This allows the CAD and pre-engineering programs opportunities to work together and put them in the same location as their computer lab. This leaves Mike Kelley, Meghan Cameron, and Dan Rothe alone in Math Land.

Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society inducted five new members in the spring. They enjoyed an educational field trip to Ann Arbor in May where we visited the U of M Museum of Natural History, the Kelsey Museum of Archeology, and the Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. New officers for the 2015-2016 school year are: President: Britny Faight, Vice president: Andrew Phal, Secretary: Brendan Cordes, Treasurer: Eric Luty, and Advisor: Dan Rothe.

**Grand Rapids CC - John Dersch**

Mathematics enrollment continues to decline, and is down approximately 9% from last year, mostly in our lower-level courses. We have the same number of students that we had in 2008, but the MTA has helped to redistribute them, with many more taking Statistics and Mathematics for Liberal Arts Students.

The lack of mandatory pre-requisites in most of our courses, and the resulting poor placement of many of our students, is finally being addressed. We are in the process of phasing out Accuplacer and introducing ALEKS PPL to place our students. Full implementation of ALEKS PPL is expected in W '17.

No recent math retirements, and the administration vows that there will be no more full-time hires until retirements occur; some of us are skeptical that they will occur at that time. Adjunct currently teach 61.5% of our math courses.

**Henry Ford CC - Jeff Morford**

Henry Ford College is pleased to welcome full-time tenure track instructors Jeanine DiDonato and Michael Zalzali to our department. In addition we welcome Tasneem Sous and Kushum Prasad who have joined the

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**Henry Ford CC**

department on one semester appointments as full-time instructors. The College will hire additional tenure track instructors as early as this winter so please advise those who may be interested to watch for announcements.

Tasneem writes, "I started as a freshman college student at HFCC and was provided an outstanding education by amazing staff/faculty members. I transferred to U of M-Dearborn to complete my undergraduate degree in mathematics. I had the privilege to teach mathematics a couple of years at a secondary level. My love for mathematics drove me to complete my graduate degree in applied mathematics at Wayne State University. I am very enthusiastic about sharing my love of mathematics to HFC students; I welcome the opportunity to share my mission as a new faculty member to help make mathematics fun, understandable, and applicable."

**Jackson C - Steven Tuckey**

Erik Brown is a new faculty member in the Jackson College Department of Mathematics and Engineering. He taught high school Math and English for eight years, and comes to Jackson College from Mount Vernon, Ohio. He holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics, Bachelor of Arts in English, and a Master of Arts in mathematics education.

Jackson College is partnering up with American Honors, a national partnership of two- and four-year institutions that helps provide outstanding students with access to outstanding educations. One of the first honors courses being offered at Jackson College will be an Honors Probability and Statistics course, in which students will be working together to investigate and report on topics of their choice, while also learning the key concepts and skills of an introductory course on probability and statistics.

**Kalamazoo Valley CC - Darlene Kohrman**

The KVCC Mathematics Department will begin the Fall 2015 semester under the leadership of a new Dean. Paige Eagan joins the administrative staff of Kalamazoo Valley Community College coming to us from Lake Michigan College. Paige began her duties in July and will support both the departments of mathematics and the sciences.

New roles in the Leadership Team for the mathematics department are: Dept. Chair Tim Kane who will work with Student and College issues, Tim Stebbins who will work with the evaluation and scheduling of Adjunct Faculty, Nancy Vendeville who continues to work with assessment issues and organizing the department website, and Nicole McClure who coordinates developmental issues such as the Guided Learning Workshops.

Lisa Winch has been granted a Sabbatical for the Winter 2016 semester.

To support our new sustainable food programs a new math course, Food Math for the Culinary Program, is being developed by Nicole Newman.

The developmental pilot for beginning algebra using the Carnegie Cognitive Tutoring software continues into a second year under the direction of faculty members Sheila Eisenhauer and Darlene Kohrman. The first year demonstrated both an increase in student scores and attendance.

Both the administration and faculty have begun a dialogue concerning new placement options, such as Accuplacer from SAT, ALEKS, or others.

**Lansing CC - Leslie Mohnke**

Lansing Community College would like to announce that Andrea Hoagland is now serving as Associate Dean for Science and Mathematics. Andrea has a BS in Mathematics from Michigan State University and

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**Lansing CC**

a Masters in Math Education from New York University. She started at LCC as an adjunct faculty in 2004 and has been a full time faculty member since 2010. She has been and will continue to be a great asset to our administrative team.

Tristan Williams has joined LCC as a full time faculty member this fall. This will be Tristan's third year of full-time community college teaching. He holds a BS in Mathematics from University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and a Master's Degree from the University of Iowa. After leaving Iowa City, he and his wife moved to Ohio where he taught for two years at Edison Community College. He has taught a variety of courses ranging from developmental Algebra to the Calculus sequence. Tristan sought the position at LCC to be closer to his family in western Michigan. We welcome Tristan as our newest full time team member.

Using the Heart of Student Success grant provided by the Lansing Community College, the calculus program lead by Dr. Jing Wang, Maria Johnson, Dr. Homa Ghaussi Mujtaba, and Nan Jackson had purchased a new 3D printer: **MakerBot Fifth Generation Replicator Desktop 3D Printer**. The goal is to incorporate Mathematica software program and 3D printings into our calculus curriculum so our students can visualize and touch three dimensional figures which are normally difficult for students to imagine.

**Macomb CC Center Campus - Caroline Castel**

As we welcome the fall semester, we are happy to have two new full-time faculty at Macomb's center campus. Joining our ranks is Chad Boruta and James Wenson; both were formerly adjuncts for Macomb.

As of this fall, we have implemented some curriculum changes to our precalculus, college algebra, and trigonometry courses. These changes were predicated by data that indicated our students were entering calculus under prepared.

We are excited about hosting the annual MichMATYC conference next month and hope to see you there. Please check out [www.macomb.edu/michmatyc15](http://www.macomb.edu/michmatyc15) for more information.

**Macomb CC South Campus - Jonathan Oaks**

The fall semester at Macomb has gotten off to a busy start! Chris Donnelly transferred to our campus from our Center Campus as our newest full-time faculty member. We also have a new adjunct instructor, Andy Kuhs. Welcome to both of them!

In addition to some new faces, we also have some new courses! Math 1415 is Precalculus I: College Algebra, Math 1435 is Precalculus II: Trigonometry, and Math 1465 is Accelerated Precalculus. Some content was changed within the courses with the hope to better prepare students for calculus.

At South campus, we have been busy with several training sessions for adjunct faculty, including our welcome back dinner which had 21 participants.

We also have some changes to our final exams as well. Effective this fall, no calculators will be allowed on our Prealgebra, Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, Precalculus, and Calculus I final exams. This new change applies only to the final exams and not to other exams that an instructor might give through the course.

The Mathematics and Cultural Diversity events continue at South Campus this semester with a Mathematics Cultural Display in the South Campus library November 2-12, a book discussion on November 3rd and 5th, and a presentation entitled, 'Uses of Bases Other Than Base 10 - Around the World!' on November 11. We are very excited to have all of these events!

Finally, our very own Jon Oaks, who is currently the Professional Development Coordinator for AMATYC, is running for AMATYC Midwest Vice President. The elections are being held September 15-30. If you are an AMATYC member, please consider voting for Jon in the election.

**Monroe County CC - Vinnie Maltese**

MCCC has developed a new algebra based course, Mathematics for Business (MATH 126) which will be taught by mathematics faculty. This course was developed in response to our new general education requirements that require a course at the Intermediate Algebra level and take effect for the 2015/2016 academic year. Previously a course taught by business division faculty that did not require knowledge of algebra fulfilled the general education requirement for business programs.

MCCC enrollment is down 8.3% from last Fall. Over the same period developmental math enrollments are down 8.2%, non-developmental math enrollments are up 11.1%, and transfer math enrollments (not including Intermediate Algebra) are up 7.3%.

Dean of the MCCC Science/Mathematics Division, Vinnie Maltese, will return to teaching mathematics full time in January 2016.

Khadija Ahmed, Professor of Mathematics, retired effective July 1, 2015. She is missed by everyone at MCCC and we wish her the best of everything in the future.

**Mott CC - Bernard Cunningham**

The educational word at this time seems to be "Pathways"! Here at Mott CC, this spring and summer, all areas/disciplines were charged with writing a pathway that would get a Bachelors Degree in four years and an Associates Degree in two years with each area/discipline as the major.

In the Mathematics area, Josua Illian took the lead in this endeavor and completed the pathway on time. The pathways are on Mott CC's website if you would like to see what we did or if you need some ideas when your area/discipline may be charged with the same task.

**St. Clair County CC - Cindie Wade**

Here at SC4, we have no change in staff. We are still wrangling with the MTA requirements. I think we have them under control.

We are still adjusting some of our "Developmental Classes" to meet the needs of our students. We may also try to adjust some of numbering system for the Math Sequence.

We do have an "author" on our staff. Paul Bedard has written an article that got published in the MAA Journal about Euler and Bernoullis, the link to it is <http://www.maa.org/press/periodicals/convergence/euler-and-the-bernoullis-learning-by-teaching-introduction>.

