

MichMATYC Sum-Times



Two-Year College Mathematics in Michigan

Edited by Jack Rotman, Lansing CC

September 2010



Muskegon Community College
October 16, 2010

MICHMATYC 2010:
Update your M.I.O.S.
Math Instructor Operating System

MichMATYC Conference!

The conference day is October 16 (Saturday), with workshops on October 15 (Friday). Consider these workshops on Friday:

October 15

9am – noon Camtasia Basics OR Wolfram Alpha

1pm – 4pm Camtasia Advanced OR “Using the Internet to Spice Up Your Math Class”

October 16

Keynote address by Peter Bishop is an Associate Professor of Strategic Foresight and Coordinator of the graduate program in Futures Studies at the University of Houston. Dr. Bishop specializes in techniques for long term forecasting and planning.

Other sessions? take a look at

<http://sites.google.com/site/michmatyc2010/home> This is the conference home page, and you find descriptions of the sessions and schedules for each day.

The conference site lists lodging for \$65 per night (what a deal!!)

<http://sites.google.com/site/michmatyc2010/ravel-lodging>

Consider going to the Friday evening social event at the GVSU Alternative Energy center (near Muskegon). See

<http://sites.google.com/site/michmatyc2010/friday-social>

We hope to see you ... and many of your colleagues. In particular, we are eager to see more adjunct faculty.

From the President

Maria Andersen Muskegon Community College

Dear Colleagues

For those of you who didn't teach in the summer, welcome back! I thought I would share some data from the Michigan Community College Math Instructor survey that many of you participated in this spring. There were 192 participants (response rate of 21%), broken down almost equally by gender, with 28% full-time faculty, 41% part-time faculty who were satisfied with that role, and 31% part-time instructors looking for full-time employment. All ready, this population may have shifted, with all the sudden retirements that happened over the summer. It should be interesting to see who's "left standing" in our math departments.

The MichMATYC Conference is coming up soon, and I wanted to show you how important professional development is for math instructors by highlighting some data from the survey. For the most part, we teach exactly how we were taught as a student (almost all of us use lecturing to some degree). To shift to other methods of

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Muskegon CC – MichMATYC Conference
1	President's Article
2	New Life for Developmental Mathematics
2	Campus News
4	Conferences & Events

continued on page 2

instruction requires first learning it, and for many instructors, that requires professional development (see table below).

For instructors who knew of the MIP, how did they first learn about it?	Lecture <i>N</i> = 173	Cooperative Learning <i>N</i> = 164	Inquiry-based Learning <i>N</i> = 147
Learned this way as a student	90.8%	7.3%	6.1%
Learned from a colleague	0.6%	13.4%	8.2%
Learned in professional training	3.4%	32.3%	42.9%
Learned by reading about this method	0.0%	4.3%	13.0%
Learned through experimentation	3.4%	12.8%	4.8%
Do not remember how they first learned	1.7%	29.9%	25.1%

What worries me is how unevenly distributed the professional development is between full-time and part-time instructors. It's not surprising – rarely are part-time instructors compensated for their time when they participate in professional development events, nor do we find the funds to send part-time instructors to events (we can barely fund full-time instructors). However, given the sheer numbers of part-time instructors that teach our developmental math courses, I think we'd better start thinking of ways to tackle this problem.

Participated in professional development	Full-time instructors	Part-time satisfied	Part-time unfulfilled
General professional development	96.3%	54.4%	62.7%
Math-specific professional development	87.0%	36.7%	44.1%
Off-campus math-specific PD	75.9%	16.5%	23.7%

When you look at the pooled participant data, only 35% of math instructors are getting off-campus to participate in any kind of math-specific professional development. At the very least, we should make sure to bring back what we learn away from home to ALL the members of our department, not just the full-time members.

Please consider inviting and supporting at least one of your adjunct instructors when you make the trip to MichMATYC this year. ❖

New Life for Developmental Mathematics

by Jack Rotman

Work continues to bring a new curriculum to developmental mathematics across the country. In addition to the sessions at the MichMATYC conference, see the "New Life" wiki at <http://dm-new-life.wikispaces.com/>. AMATYC is also involved in a major grant project with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; look for information at <http://devmath.amatyc.org/> in the newsletters of the committee.

Campus News

Alpena Community College (Rep: Dan Rothe)

It has been a busy year at Alpena Community College. This year we offer a record number of off campus dual enrollment math classes: College Algebra (Finite Math), Precalculus, and Calc I at Rogers City High School; College Algebra (Finite Math) and Statistics at Hale High School. It is our hope that these classes would encourage upper level math students to come to ACC as well as provide a level of mathematics that some of the smaller high schools cannot offer.

We have had a number of retirements at ACC this year. David Eger who taught business and math and the Huron Shores campus was the only retirement in our department. R.C. Laugal was hired to teach chemistry and math at the Huron Shores campus. Enrollment is down slightly from last year's records but still at a healthy level. Off campus dual enrollment offerings continue and have brought some students who were dual enrollment last year into higher classes this year. As I write this, it is 91 degrees in Alpena with no air conditioning in my office or most classrooms. We look forward to cooler conditions next month. We are looking forward to a good semester.

The ACC chapter of Sigma Zeta Math/Science honor society inducted nine new members in the spring. They helped with the Regional Science Olympiad Tournament and enjoyed a trip to the Detroit Science Center in early May. Officers for the 2010-2011 school years are: Michelle Mulka, President; Jessica High, Vice President; Elizabeth VanSipe/Sarah Kipfmiller, secretary; and Brian Parkham, Treasurer. The group will be meeting soon to determine fall projects.

Delta College (Rep: Jim Roznowski)

Judy Pretzer and Jack Crowell, after a combined 80 years at Delta, took Michigan up on its retirement incentive. Frances Lichtman joined the faculty in a

continued on page 3

tenure-track position. Beth Kelch has been appointed as a one-year appointment.

Grand Rapids Community College (Rep: John Dersch)

The GRCC Mathematics Department is enjoying (?) record enrollment for the nth consecutive year. Most of the growth is at the developmental end, although we do see significant increases in our Introductory Statistics course. Our newly revised Arithmetic/Pre-Algebra course attracted 1079 students, roughly 19% of total enrollment. This fall we have 68 adjunct faculty teaching 70% of our classes. As recently as 2001 this figure was 49%. Jim Chesla (former MichMATYC President), David Pruis and Nickie Alexander have retired within the past two years. Nickie was our department head; her responsibilities have been assumed by our new leader, Alejandro Saldivar. In 2009 we hired Curt Baragar and Brianne Ludholtz to replace retiring faculty, and we hope to hire several additional full-time faculty in the near future.

Tom Worthington will retire in July of 2011 with 47 years of service in mathematics and physics.

Henry Ford Community College (Rep: Jeff Morford)

The Mathematics Division would like to thank Ms. Jeannine Dawson, who retired this May, for her service to the College. We would like to welcome Ms. Nahla Haidar, a new, tenure-track faculty member in our division. We would also like to welcome Ms. Paula Schmansky who joins the Division for the Fall 2010 semester.

We are living in interesting times at HFCC as Math Division classrooms and offices are moving to space vacated by our Nursing Division when they relocated to a new building. We are taking advantage of the opportunity to design a state-of-the-art classroom for our Math for Elementary teachers course that should be ready by Fall 2011 semester. The classroom will include design elements and technology to more easily use many pedagogical strategies. We also hope to add well-designed spaces for student tutoring and for part-time faculty office hours.

Lansing Community College (by Jack Rotman)

Like everybody else, we had retirements – Sue Christiansen and Louise Randall retired after outstanding service, and continue to be involved as adjunct faculty.

We made 4 hires for full-time positions. Andrea Hoagland, Eliza Lee, and Everett McLwain specializing in developmental math, and Jun Wu specializing in computer science.

We are heavily using ‘e-books’ this year in some courses. Currently, pre-algebra students pay a course fee that includes the e-book and homework system; next semester, both the introductory and intermediate algebra courses will use the course fee method to give

students the e-book and homework system.

Macomb Community College (Rep: Barbara Jur)

Barbara Jur, Associate Dean of Mathematics and Science at Macomb Community College South Campus retired on August 1 after 20 years of service. Her special interests were the history of mathematics (especially Egyptian mathematics) and developmental mathematics.

Barbara will be staying in Michigan and probably doing some adjunct teaching.

Mid Michigan College (Rep: David Kedrowski)

Jerry Freeland, a longtime member of our FT faculty, retired at the end of the summer. Bob Elmore from our adjunct faculty ranks is filling Jerry’s position for this academic year. A new lectureship position in the department has been filled by newcomer Kerrie Clark. We’re also excited to be adding a sixth full-time position to the department with a start date in January.

Over the summer we started to take an in-depth look at our curriculum from arithmetic through intermediate algebra. Our goal is to make sure we’re giving students the knowledge they need for their programs in a reasonable and efficient way. As part of the discussion we are considering offerings specific to certain areas of the college, like our technical and health areas. We are also going to revisit our alternative offerings for developmental students and see how they can be improved. We expect the process to last at least through this year with the (probably hopeful) plan of beginning to implement changes next fall.

Mott Community College (Rep: Bernard Cunningham)

I have three pieces of information that might be of interest for the newsletter.

1. a retirement
2. two new full-time hires
3. Basic Math book

Cedric Akins retired after 30 years of teaching at Mott CC. He arrived on Mott’s campus from MSU in 1975. His classes became magnets; students believed he had the key to success, and succeed they all did. He could have been an investigative reporter, a lawyer or a researcher – but he stayed with Mott’s students and made a difference in their lives and the lives of all who worked with him. We wish you a great retirement!

Josh Illian and Sunni Samuels have been hired as full-time tenure track instructors. Josh graduated from Vassar High School, Saginaw Valley State U. for undergraduate level, and Purdue U. for graduate level. Sunni graduated from Flint Central High School, South Carolina State U. for undergraduate level, and University of Marland for graduate level.

continued on page 4

Welcome to Mott CC!

In the spring semester, the full-time faculty committed to writing a book to be used in the Basic Math classes at Mott CC. This was completed and implemented for the fall semester classes.

Muskegon Comm College (Rep: Maria Andersen)

Muskegon Community College announces the retirement of Diane Krasnewich and welcomes Karin Burrell and Cathy Strate as one-year full-time faculty for the Math Department. The week-long MCC Math and Technology Workshop ran in August, with attendance of 40 participants from across the country.

Oakland CC – Auburn Hills (Rep: Janet Peart)

Retirements as of June '10: Gladys Rockind and Kathy Chiasson
Tenure track new hires: JJ Mertz, Linda Britton
Annual contract new hire: Sandra Walker

Gladys taught at OCC for 30+ years and was our department chair for most of those years. She served as President of MichMATYC and represented Michigan for many years at AMATYC.

Kathy taught at OCC for 16 years after teaching HS for 15 years.

Both of these ladies will be greatly missed at Auburn Hills OCC.

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

We do have a new full-time hire at SC4, she is Marie St. James, teaching some of developmental courses. She has been a temporary full-time instructor for 1 1/2 years, so we welcome her. We also anticipate another posting for a full-time instructor, in the near future, at the upper end.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

MICHMAA & MICHMATYC SPRING CONFERENCE 2011

PLACE WMU DATE MAY 6 - 7

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

MICHMATYC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE MUSKEGON CC DATE OCTOBER 15-16

<http://michmatyc.org/>

AMATYC 36TH 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> .

Next Award cycle: Materials due June 2011!■

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>

Next Award cycle: Materials due June 2011!