

NEMATYC NEWS

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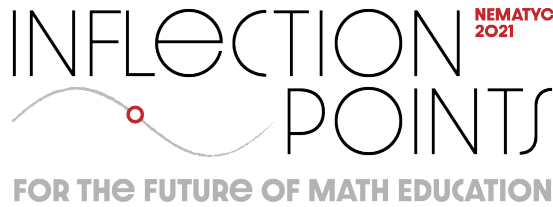


Vol. 29, No. 2

Newsletter of the New England Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Spring 2021

NEMATYC 2021 Conference



NEMATYC’s 46th Annual Conference will be held over the first two full weeks in April. The theme is “Inflection Points–For the Future of Math Education.” Conference Chairs are Autumn Alden, Alex Cotter, and Kerryn Snyder. Details in this newsletter.

To propose a paper or session, go to <http://nematyc.info/PROPOSAL/>



From the
NEMATYC
President

Hello friends,
In November,
the AMATYC
Delegate Assembly

passed a position statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. I imagine that these conversations about equity are being had at many of your home institutions as well, like we are having at North Shore CC. As a result of these frequent conversations, achieving racial equity is something that I think about much more regularly and proactively.

For me, this means brainstorming what barriers currently exist in our department and what are some ideas to remove those barriers. I know many of you are already well into this process and I've been humbled and impressed with the ideas I've seen many New England community colleges take towards addressing racial inequity in mathematics. One example of this was in October's Teaching, Learning, and Student Development Confer-

Continued on page 4

From the
AMATYC
Regional Vice
President

Hello Northeast
AMATYC colleague, and
Happy New Year!

I hope your spring semester is off to a great start, with less surprises and many valuable experiences earned from a challenging 2020.

I am writing to highlight some wonderful AMATYC opportunities:

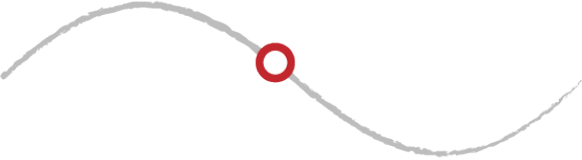
- **IMPACT Live!** on myAMATYC is back in 2021 with a focus on one of the four **IMPACT** pillars (Proficiency, Ownership, Engagement, and Student Success) per quarter. The first quarter is focusing on **ENGAGEMENT**. Log in today to be part of the discussion!
- myAMATYC is available to non-members at no cost until **June 2021**. Please join us to start or continue the conversations about math education in the first two years of college.



Continued on page 4

INFLECTION POINTS

NEMATYC
2021



FOR THE FUTURE OF MATH EDUCATION

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

NEMATYC 2021 Spring Conference
Inflection Points for the Future of Math Education
Held Virtually, April 5th - 16th
www.NEMATYC.org



Warm greetings from your 2021 conference co-chairs. We hope that this message finds everyone well and that you are weathering the trials of virtual education. The last year has certainly not been what anyone expected. We've all had to adapt and overcome in almost every aspect of our lives. This definitely includes conferences. After the difficult decision to cancel the NEMATYC conference last year, we are excited to announce that we are back!



This year's conference is going to be a very different experience. Though nothing replaces being in the room with our colleagues, holding a conference virtually does allow for a great deal of flexibility and some unique advantages. For this conference, we are doing away with concurrent sessions. No longer will you have to choose between excellent competing presentations. Nor will you have to suffer from Zoom fatigue.

Please keep an eye on www.NEMATYC.org for session information and other conference details as they emerge.

Our plan is to spread sessions out over the first two full weeks in April—**Monday April 5 to Friday April 16**. We will generally have two 45-minute presentations per evening, 6pm - 8pm, with 30 minutes of social time in between. However, flexibility is the order of the day, and so look for the possibility of sessions at other times and other events.

We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker this year will be cartoonist, author, and math educator **Ben Orlin**. Ben's keynote will be held on Tuesday, April 6th at 6:30pm. For more information about Ben, please head over to his website: www.mathwithbaddrawings.com.

Our conference theme this year is *Inflection Points for the Future of Math Education*, and it sure feels like we are at an inflection point. The sudden and unexpected pivot to full-scale virtual education is likely to have consequences for math education lasting long after COVID-19 is a distant memory. What will the future of math education look like? It's time to start having these conversations, and the NEMATYC conference provides an excellent forum for these discussions. If you have something to share, please consider submitting a proposal at <http://nematyc.info/PROPOSAL/>.



If you are willing to help facilitate one of our virtual sessions, we are seeking presiders. Please contact Alex Cotter at acotter1@massasoit.edu.

Please keep an eye on www.NEMATYC.org for session information and other conference details as they emerge.

We look forward to “seeing” everyone online!

Your conference co-chairs,
Autumn Alden, Alex Cotter, Kerryn Snyder

Call for Presenters

46th Annual NEMATYC Meeting
**Virtual Events from
Monday April 5 to Friday April 16**

Submit online

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAY MARCH 19th, 2020

Submit online

To propose a presentation please use the online form at

<http://nematyc.info/PROPOSAL/>

Conference Theme

NEMATYC 2021: Inflection Points for the Future of Math Education

Suggested Topics: Open Educational Resources, STEM starter programs, Data Science in the first two years, Vision Project course revisions, boot camps, using math in other disciplines, online college math labs/math tutoring, online/blended courses, Gateway Programs, teaching techniques and learning styles, cutting edge software/technology, modeling data, service learning, flipped classrooms, emporium classroom or other accelerated classrooms, and K-12 and college collaboration, virtual teaching and learning, to name a few.

If you need additional information or have questions, please call or email Alex Cotter at 508-588-9100 x1654 or ACotter1@massasoit.mass.edu or Autumn Alden at autumn.alden@bristolcc.edu or 774-357-3985.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FRIDAY MARCH 19th, 2020

From the NEMATYC President, continued from page 1

ence, the folks from Bristol CC and Roxbury CC shared data analyses from their full-scale co-requisite implementation which showed BIPOC populations accounting for the biggest gains in college-level course enrollment and success. The innovative strategies you are all using across the state is an inspiration that closing this gap can be achieved. I hope these conversations continue among colleagues inside NEMATYC. One place that can happen is in the NEMATYC Slack Group, which this newsletter has more information on how to join (see page 8). Another is at our annual NEMATYC conference!

Working from home and online has been a challenge, to say the least. One thing I've missed is the ability to just drop in on a colleague to have a conversation about something on my mind. One of my department colleagues has set up weekly Zoom calls on Fridays at 2 pm for this purpose that anyone can just drop into and say hi, which has been a nice way to try to rekindle some semblance of that social aspect I feel that I'm missing.

After missing out on an annual NEMATYC conference last year, I'm looking forward to getting the chance to see many of you at this year's virtual conference. Our conference chairs are putting a lot of thought and work into organizing this conference for us to learn from one another and also to have some built in socializing time. I hope you'll consider dropping by for some of our events and also spread the word to your colleagues and encourage them to attend.

I wish you all a healthy, peaceful, innovative, and enjoyable semester.

Billy Jackson
President, NEMATYC

p.s. AMATYC's position statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion can be found at <https://amatyc.org/page/PositionDiversityEquityInclusion>

From the AMATYC Regional Vice President, continued from page 1

- YOU can be on the 2022 - 2023 AMATYC Board. Nominations are due February 1st. Find more information here. I will not be running again for Northeast VP, so please consider nominating yourself for this very rewarding volunteer position.
- Upcoming Webinar: *Creating Engagement in Your Learning Environment*, presented by Julie Phelps and Kate Kozak. **Friday, January 22nd at 3PM.**
- Proposals to present at the 2021 AMATYC Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ are due **February 1st**. See more information [here](#).
- The AMATYC Foundation is offering **\$250 mini-grants** to help faculty continue to transition in-person classes to remote/online classes. Find more information and how to apply [here](#).
- The Fourth Annual **Student Research League** competition is ready for teams to register for the 2021 competition. The SRL is an opportunity for two-year college students to engage in research and problem solving. Check out the [SRL webpage](#) for all of the details on eligibility, registration, and prizes. Registration ends **March 8th**

We also have our Northeast Region Online Community in myAMATYC, so please hop on and post any questions you have or discussion topics you wish to explore.

Regards,

Sophia Georgiakaki
AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The NEMATYC Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following vacancies and present the following slate of officers for the elections to be held at the business meeting, Thursday, April 15, 2021, 7:00pm at the annual conference. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the business meeting and election will be held virtually, details to follow.

1. VICE PRESIDENT (One-Year Term)

AUTUMN ALDEN

Autumn Alden has been a full-time member of the faculty at Bristol Community College since 2013. She is the Developmental Math Coordinator at BCC and currently serves as the NEMATYC Vice President. Autumn earned her BS in Mathematics from UMass Amherst, her M.Ed. in Math Education from UCLA, and her MS in Mathematics from Salem State. She began her teaching career at Leuzinger HS (in Lawndale, CA) and then at East Bridgewater HS. She continues to be an adjunct faculty member at Massasoit CC and Bridgewater State. In the past, she has also taught at Fisher College, Bunker Hill CC, and UMass Dartmouth.

2. MEMBER-AT-LARGE (Two-Year Term, two to be elected)

RICK NEVILLE

Richard (Rick) Neville was an assistant professor at Dean College from 2012 through the fall of 2019. He earned his BS in Secondary Education for mathematics and for English/communications from Penn State, his MA in Mathematics from Boston College, and his PhD in Mathematics from the University at Albany (SUNY). In 2018, he chaired NEMATYC's 44th annual conference which was held at Dean College. Rick has taught students ranging from second graders to graduate students, and he loves to see the moment when someone breaks through a troubling bit of mathematics and reaches understanding.

TONKA ZELENKOVA

Tonka Zelenkova has been teaching at Middlesex Community College since 2010. She has a Master's degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Tonka's passion is easy math algorithms that can be applied to solve everyday life problems.

Prior to the election, nominations will also be welcomed from the floor.

Alex Cotter, Nominating Committee Chair

JOIN FOR FREE!

Join NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC?

Membership is included in our annual conference fee. Since the 2021 NEMATYC conference is free, **JOIN NEMATYC FOR FREE** this year by registering for the conference!



Aisha Arroyo
NEMATYC Treasurer
Middlesex Community College
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

YOU are the M in STEM

The NEMATYC STUDENT MATH LEAGUE RECOGNITION AWARD PROGRAM

by Kerryn Snyder, NEMATYC Student Mathematics League Coordinator

Award Program

The purpose of the NEMATYC Student Mathematics League Recognition Awards Program is to foster extracurricular mathematics learning opportunities for students through participation in the AMATYC Student Mathematics League (SML). The top-placing student in the AMATYC SML Competition at each school in NEMATYC's region receives a \$100 award. The only criteria is the student must participate in both the Fall and Spring competitions. The top school receives the Lois A. Martin NEMATYC Student Mathematics League Award.

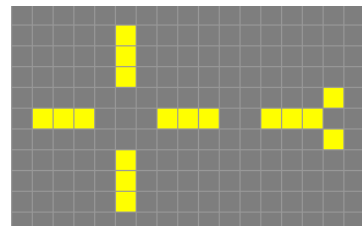
As reported in the fall newsletter the AMATYC Student Math League 2020-2021 was cancelled due to the pandemic. Hopefully 2021-2022 will see a revival of that program, and with it the NEMATYC Student Math League.

COVID—Part of the Tragedy

You probably have heard of John Horton Conway, and perhaps of his "Game of Life". Tragically this mathematical wonder died April 11, 2020 at the age of 82 from complications from COVID-19.

At <https://playgameoflife.com/> you can experiment with the Game of Life – a fascinating game with only three simple rules that produce very interesting patterns on a grid, growing, moving, decaying and dying.

When I taught computer programming it was sometimes a project for my students, a very good exercise in manipulating arrays.



Interested in Jokes

Did people 2,000 years ago tell jokes like we do today? Did they have a similar sense of humor? Did they talk about mathematics? Questions like this interest this editor.

In 400 AD two Greeks wrote a book of jokes, called Philogelos (loosely translated as "the Joker")*.

Did you hear the one about the idiot moneylender who called in his debts? He ordered a sailor to buy him a cremation urn and two smaller urns for his eight-year-old sons, which would grow to the right size with interest.

I didn't say it was funny, but it is similar to jokes we might hear today, whether in good taste or not. But I cite this example from that book because it mentions things growing with interest. A quick web search notes that Pompeii has graffiti which talks about loans with interest rates of 45 to 75 percent, and that the Romans capped interest rates on cash loans at 12%—more humane than the credit cards on which our fellow citizens carry much debt.

One other tidbit I have come across recently is that Sir Isaac Newton is said to have laughed only once in his life—when someone asked him what use he saw in Euclid's *Elements*.

*This information about the joke and the book is from "The World's Oldest Joke Book" by Dan Crompton.

NEMATYC Slack Workspace

NEW: Several NEMATYC members have expressed a desire to communicate and collaborate with fellow NEMATYC members year-round, rather than just once or twice a year at our annual events. So we put together a Slack workspace where members can join and talk about ideas.

The link to join that slack workspace is:

https://join.slack.com/t/nematycworkspace/shared_invite/zt-kofmm342-eVBX5cqQX4SKGLS97Cz8ug
or <https://tinyurl.com/NEMATYCjoinS>

We hope you join us there!

Billy Jackson
President, NEMATYC

Proposed Amendments to the NEMATYC Constitution

The following amendments to the NEMATYC Constitution are proposed by the Executive Board. They will be voted on at the next NEMATYC business meeting, to be conducted during the conference.

ARTICLE	ORIGINAL TEXT	PROPOSED TEXT	EFFECT/RATIONALE
3.A	The membership year of the Association is May 1 of one year to the following April 30.	Membership lasts for a year or until the next annual conference, whichever is longer.	This aligns our membership policy in our constitution and in our policy manual. This also avoids the issue of someone becoming a member at an annual conference in early April for it to either expire in less than a month.
4	A. DUES Annual dues are paid by all members. The Executive Committee recommends rates and the designated rates are set by the Association at the annual conference. B, FEES The Association may assess fees in addition to dues, as recommended by the Executive Committee and set by the Association at the annual conference	A. DUES Annual dues are paid by all members. The Executive Committee recommends rates and the designated rates are set by the Association. B, FEES The Association may assess fees in addition to dues, as recommended by the Executive Committee and set by the Association.	Enables dues to be set at a board meeting that is not at an annual conference.
5.C.1.	Each officer except the Past-President is elected at the annual business meeting.	Each officer except the Past-President is elected at an annual election.	To provide the ability to host an election other than at the annual business meeting.

<p>5.C</p>	<p>a. The President will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected to a two-year term. ii. conduct the business portion of the annual conference iii. report on the state of the organization at the annual conference iv. assume the role of past-president at the conclusion of the term. v. with the approval of the Executive Committee, appoint the newsletter editor(s), membership coordinator(s), and webmaster. vi. schedule and preside over Executive Committee meetings. vii. perform all duties normally associated with this office. <p>b. The Vice-President will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected for a one-year term. ii. conduct meetings and fulfill the obligations of the President in situations where the President is absent. If the president is unable to continue in office, the Vice-President will assume the office of President. <p>c. The Secretary will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected to a two-year term. ii. be responsible for the official correspondence of the Association. iii. maintain the records of the Association and transmit these records to the succeeding Secretary iv. take minutes of the meetings of the Association. v. maintain an up-to-date copy of the Constitution, and in collaboration with the Executive Committee, make changes as voted by the members <p>d. The Treasurer will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected to a three-year term. ii. be in charge of all the financial records and funds of the Association. iii. surrender the financial records of the Association for annual auditing to a designee appointed by the Executive Committee. iv. give a report at the annual business meeting. v. retain an up-to-date membership list. vi. receive dues payments. 	<p>a. The President will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected to a two-year term. ii. assume the role of past-president at the conclusion of the term. <p>b. The Vice-President will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected for a one-year term. ii. conduct meetings and fulfill the obligations of the President in situations where the President is absent. If the president is unable to continue in office, the Vice-President will assume the office of President. <p>c. The Secretary will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected to a two-year term. ii. be responsible for the official correspondence of the Association. <p>d. The Treasurer will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be elected to a three-year term. ii. be in charge of all the financial records and funds of the Association. 	<p>This change moves many of the officer responsibilities from the constitution to the policy manual. Some officer responsibilities could change over time and we do not want to necessitate a vote for a constitutional change in order to make such changes.</p> <p>It is not typical to find these responsibilities listed in a constitution in other non-profit orgs.</p>
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	<p>e. The Past-President will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. serve a two-year term following the expiration of the term of president. ii. serve as a consultant to the Executive Committee as needed. iii. nominate members for the Nominations Committee at the fall Executive Committee meeting in the year they take office and as vacancies arise. iv. supervise maintenance of the Policy Manual. 	<p>e. The Past-President will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. serve a two-year term following the expiration of the term of president. ii. serve as a consultant to the Executive Committee as needed. <p>The NEMATYC Policy Manual will contain a complete list of responsibilities.</p>	
6	<p>The Executive Committee may appoint association members to assist the Association in fulfilling its mission. These appointees may include a newsletter editor, membership coordinator, conference chairperson, immediate past conference chairperson, and webmaster. Other positions may be created by the Executive Committee as needed. Members may be reappointed to successive terms. No person should fill two positions. No elected officer should fill an appointed position. With the exception of the Conference Chair and the Past Conference Chair, The Executive Board will review all appointed positions annually.</p>	<p>The Executive Committee may appoint association members to assist the Association in fulfilling its mission. With the exception of the Conference Chair and the Past NEMATYC Conference Chair, The Executive Board will review all appointed positions annually.</p>	<p>Strikes the list of the appointed positions as they could certainly and easily change over time. Appointed positions would be a better fit in the policy manual.</p>
8	<p>There shall be a Nominations Committee.</p> <p>The Past-President serves as an ex officio member and nominates committee members to the Executive Committee. The committee should have 3 to 5 members. In the Fall, the committee should conduct a search for well-qualified candidates. A slate of candidates recommended by the nominations committee should be presented to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee certifies nominees for elected positions as candidates.</p> <p>The certified slate of candidates should appear in the Spring Newsletter.</p> <p>Nominations for elected office may also be made at the annual business meeting by any member.</p>	<p>There shall be a Nominations Committee.</p> <p>The Past-President serves as an ex officio chair and nominates committee members to the Executive Committee. In the Fall, the committee should conduct a search for well-qualified candidates. Nominations for elected office may also be made at the annual business meeting by any member. The duties of the nominations committee are outlined in the policy manual.</p>	<p>Eliminates the size of the committee from the constitution. We have not been meeting this criterion lately.</p>

9.A.	The Association will have an annual conference of one or more consecutive days. The conference location and date(s) are set by the Executive Committee.	The Association should have an annual conference. The conference location and date(s) are set by the Executive Committee.	Changes “will” to “should” and doesn’t specify the length of the conference.
9.B	A quorum of the annual business meeting is twenty (20) members. A quorum of any other business meeting is the president, two other officers, and an additional 20 members.	A quorum of the annual business meeting is ten (10) members. A quorum of any other business meeting is the president, two other officers, and an additional 10 members.	With dwindling membership in recent years, we have regularly been facing the risk of not making a quorum, therefore not being able to conduct business.
Articles 11	Proposed amendments to this constitution may be initiated by any member. Ratification shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual business meeting at the annual conference. A notice of a proposed amendment shall be sent to all members at least one month prior to the annual conference.	Proposed amendments to this constitution may be initiated by any member. Ratification shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a business meeting. A notice of a proposed amendment shall be sent to all members at least one month prior to the meeting.	Removing the need for this meeting to occur at an annual conference, but rather at any business meeting that is advertised at least once month prior.
12.B	The Association may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the annual business meeting at the annual conference, provided that a notice of at least one month was given to all members.	The Association may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a business meeting, provided that a notice of at least one month was given to all members.	Same as above

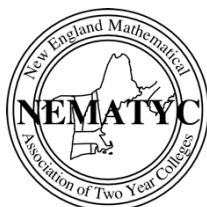
NEMATYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 2018-2020

President	20-22	Billy Jackson	North Shore CC	wjackson@northshore.edu
Vice President	20-21	Autumn Alden	Bristol CC	Autumn.Alden@bristolcc.edu
Past President	20-22	Alex Cotter	Massasoit CC	ACotter1@massasoit.mass.edu
Secretary	20-22	Philomena D'Alessandro	Quinsigamond CC	pdalessandro@qcc.mass.edu
Treasurer	19-22	Aisha Arroyo	Middlesex CC	ArroyoA@middlesex.mass.edu
At-Large Member	19-21	Tonka Zelenkova	Middlesex CC	zelenkovat@middlesex.mass.edu
At-Large Member	19-21	Richard Neville		rick.neville.22@gmail.com
At-Large Member	20-22	Aliza Miller	Middlesex CC	MillerAK@middlesex.mass.edu
At-Large Member	20-22	Vacant		

Appointed NEMATYC Positions

Conference Cochairs	20-21	Autumn Alden, Bristol CC Alex Cotter, Massasoit CC Kerryn Snyder, Massasoit CC		
Past Conference Chair	19-21	Elena Heineke	Quincy College	
Membership Chair		Vacant		
Student Math League Crdintr	18-21	Kerryn Snyder	Massasoit CC	KSnyder@massasoit.mass.edu
Webmaster	18-21	Mary E. Sullivan	Cape Cod CC	MSulli01@capecod.edu
Newsletter Editor	18-21	Philip Mahler	retired	mahlermath@comcast.net

AMATYC Regional Vice President: Sophia Georgiakaki, Tompkins Cortland CC, Sophia.georgiakaki@amatyc.org



The NEMATYC Newsletter is issued twice a year, in the Fall and in the Spring. Suggestions and submissions may be directed to the president or the editor.

NEMATYC NEWSLETTER
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