

NEMATYC NEWS



Vol 16, No 1

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

Fall, 2007

From the President

Andrew Perry



Greetings!

I'm pleased to report that there are numerous initiatives underway in NEMATYC. Our second annual fall dinner conference will take place October 12 in Worcester; I hope that many members will attend in support of what may become a long-standing tradition.

In April we will head west to Springfield for our annual conference. In addition to the usual varied and stimulating conference agenda, we will be experimenting with a new form of presentation, the "lightning talk".

Continued on page 3

From Your AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President

Maryann Justinger



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to what I hope is a very rewarding semester!

I hope the start of the semester finds everyone healthy, rested, revived and ready for another exciting year! The AMATYC Executive Board election is taking place this fall (I hope you remembered to vote!) and will result in many new members on the Board. They will be looking at new directions for the organization, considering the workings of the Delegate Assembly and the Board itself. This is an exciting time for AMATYC!

Continued on page 4

Announcing
2nd Annual NEMATYC Fall Dinner Meeting
Friday - October 12, 2007 - Worcester
See page 7 - Registration form enclosed.

Announcement & Call for Presenters Inside

NEMATYC 2008

34th Annual Meeting

KEEPING IT REAL IN 08

Springfield Technical Community College

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 11-12, 2008

Lauren Brewer, Vanessa Hill, Cochairs



NEMATYC'08

Keeping It Real

It is imperative to teach mathematics in a relevant and effective manner in the classroom.



STCC is located in Springfield Massachusetts, home of the Basketball Hall of Fame. We are also within a half an hour drive of both Northampton, MA and Hartford, CT. There will be plenty to do and lots to learn and experience so please, please join us!

Lauren Brewer

Vanessa Hill

Conference Cochairs

To learn how, come to the historic campus of Springfield Technical Community College, site of Shay's Rebellion and the Springfield Armory, on Friday and Saturday April 11-12, 2008.

It has been 24 years since the NEMATYC conference has come to our campus, and we are excited at the opportunity to host you! We look forward to seeing you at the conference and hope that you will consider giving a talk.



We are trying something new this year. If you are interested in presenting an idea quickly, we are offering 5 minute **lightning sessions**. These are short (5 minute... hence the name!) presentations, where you can present a novel or great teaching idea, a new course, or a new tool for teaching... whatever!



NEMATYC 08 Cochairs Lauren Brewer, left, and Vanessa Hill, right, chat with former NEMATYC President Roberta Kieronski at NEMATYC'07.

NEMATYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2007-2008

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From the President – continued from page 1

We are still exploring site possibilities for the 2009 NEMATYC meeting. In addition, Cape Cod Community College will host a national *Beyond Crossroads* conference in the summer of 2009. In 2010, AMATYC will be coming back to Boston! Our very own Jack Keating will lead a team of Massasoit Community College faculty in making the local arrangements. The NEMATYC Board is considering various options for the NEMATYC conference that year, including the possibility of a joint meeting with NYS-MATYC.

NEMATYC needs you !

As a NEMATYC member, there are many ways you can get involved. Of course, attend the conferences! Almost surely, you have something valuable to share with your NEMATYC colleagues, so please consider giving a lightning talk, if not a full length one. Share your thoughts on future plans with the NEMATYC Board, or better yet, run for the a seat on the Board yourself (pg. 8). We are always excited to have new members. Contribute to the NEMATYC newsletter. If you're interested in helping with conferences, your help will be much appreciated. Consider volunteering to help out with NEMATYC 2008 (see Lauren Brewer or Vanessa Hill), the *Beyond Crossroads* event (Mary Moynihan) or AMATYC 2010 (Jack Keating).

I wish everyone a successful fall semester, and hope to see you at the meetings.

Andrew Perry
NEMATYC President
Springfield College

As I was going to St. Ives,
I met a man with seven wives.
Every wife had seven sacks,
Every sack had seven cats,
Every cat had seven kits.
Kits, cats, sacks and wives,
How many were going to St. Ives?

Project ACCCESS

Amy Adams is a Math Instructor at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, Boston, MA, a two-year college. Amy recently entered and participated in AMATYC's Project ACCCESS. The editor asked if we might interview her about the experience.



Q: How did you hear about Project ACCCESS?

A: I was browsing the AMATYC website and discovered the opportunity and that I met the qualifications.

Q: Was and is your college supportive?

A: My college is very supportive. I believe it is essential for the success of the college that I am involved in professional organizations, especially because of our small size. We only have 2 full time faculty in the Math/Physics Department, so Inter-college networking is the best way for me to engage in dialogue in my field. Fortunately, the college also sees this involvement as essential.

Q: How long have you been at BFIT?

A: Two years.

Q: What attracted you about the program, enough to apply?

A: The opportunity to discuss math education in the 2-year colleges. I enjoy talking to other math teachers, sharing classroom strategies, and improving my teaching practice. Project ACCCESS has the explicit purpose of facilitating this kind of networking and discussion, and it promotes involvement in MAA and AMATYC by providing free membership for the fellowship year and contacts at the conferences.

ACCCESS continued on page 11.

JOIN NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC? Join by sending the \$5.00 annual membership fee, payable to NEMATYC, to Lauren Brewer, NEMATYC Treasurer, 1 Armory Sq
Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield, MA 01105

The symbol i denoting the imaginary unit $\sqrt{-1}$ was first used by Euler in a memoir presented in 1777 to the Academy at St. Petersburg.

From the Regional VP – continued from page 1

Our annual conference will be hosted by our colleagues from New Orleans with much assistance from the folks in Minneapolis! We will be meeting in Minneapolis since the hotel we were to use in New Orleans has not yet finished recovery from Katrina. If you have attended previous conferences you know what a wonderful professional experience an AMATYC conference can be. If you have not yet had the chance to attend an AMATYC conference, let me take this opportunity to invite you to join us! I have always found the experience enlightening and come back to the classroom with new ideas and new energy! More information can be found at the AMATYC website: www.amatyc.org

Also, nominations are now open for the next AMATYC **Mathematics Excellence Award**, which will be presented at the 2008 AMATYC Annual Conference in Washington, DC. Nominations must be received by Friday, November 2, 2007. Please consider nominating a colleague!

The Mathematics Excellence Award Committee will consider each of the nominations in accordance with the following criteria:

- National reputation
- Leadership and activities in professional organizations
- Professional talks and presentations
- Awards and grants received
- Publications
- Professional activities on a regional, state, and national scale
- Teaching Expertise
- Other Contributions to mathematics and/or mathematics education

Submit nomination materials to:

Judy E. Ackerman
ME Award Committee Chair
Montgomery College
51 Mannakee Street
Rockville, MD 20850
Judy.Ackerman@montgomerycollege.edu

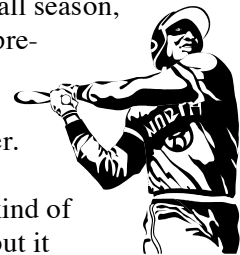
There are many wonderful professional opportunities through AMATYC. If you are currently a member, you already know this! If you are not a member I would like to encourage you to “give it a try”! Membership information can be found on the website!

Math is More

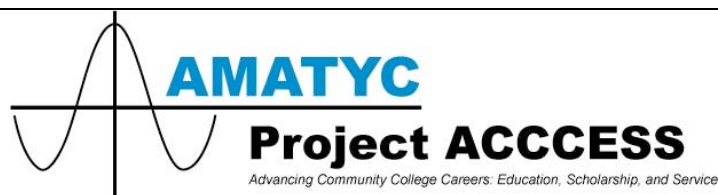
Solomon Garfunkel, Executive Director of COMAP (<http://www.comap.com/>), has called our attention to, in Sol’s words, “a movement we are calling, *Math is More*. It is an attempt at bringing some focus and some sanity into the discussion about the future of U.S. mathematics education. I’d appreciate it if you would take a look at the web site <http://www.mathismore.net> and join us if you can. I’m honestly not sure how this will evolve. But this is a start”. (Sol keynoted our 1988 conference which coincidentally is featured on page 9.)

Simpson’s Paradox*

In the 1995 baseball season, Derek Jeter’s batting average was .250 and David Justice’s was .253. In the 1996 baseball season, Jeter’s average was .314 (nothing to do with π , presumably) and Justice’s was .321 (nothing to do with arithmetic sequences, presumably). So both years, Justice had a better average than Jeter. However, taking the two years together, Jeter’s average was .310, and Justice’s was .270. This kind of paradox is well known to teachers of statistics, but it might be a challenging problem for students at any level to find a set of data which would illustrate this paradox. It’s even accessible to arithmetic students.



*Remember, Homer Simpson lives in Springfield, site of the 2008 NEMATYC conference! ☺



is a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college mathematics faculty. The project's goal is to provide experiences that will help new faculty become more effective teachers and active members of the broader mathematical community.

NEMATYC STUDENT MATH LEAGUE REPORT

Lois Martin, Student Math League Awards Coordinator

RECOGNITION AWARD PROGRAM

The purpose of the NEMATYC Student Math League Recognition Award Program is to foster extracurricular mathematics learning opportunities for students through participation in the AMATYC Student Math League. Annually, the top placing student in the AMATYC Student Mathematics League Competition, in up to five schools in NEMATYC's service area, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, will receive a \$100 Recognition Award. The first awards were given in spring 2007. Full rules and more information will be disseminated at the conference and will be on the web site.

NEMATYC encourages you to consider joining the AMATYC Student Mathematics League and participating in this NEMATYC program. Your involvement can be as simple as advertising and conducting one one-hour testing session each semester, and can include pre-test study sessions, or even a campus mathematics club. It may be noted that AMATYC is a sponsor of Mu Alpha Theta, a national mathematics honor society primarily for high school students but which supports two year college chapters as well. Information on both the SML and Mu Alpha Theta is at the AMATYC web site, www.AMATYC.org.

What Do You Do For Your Best Students?

Report Fall 2007

Last spring when NEMATYC made its first Student Math League Recognition Awards, it honored, with a \$100 award, the top scoring student who competed in both rounds from each NEMATYC area school. The award winners were: Guy Vin Chang (Southern Maine CC), Emily Cross (Cape Cod CC), Thomas Finegan (Massasoit CC), Nathan Gilbert (Middlesex CC), Carlton Henderson (Bristol CC), Fabrice Kamayou (Mount Wachusett CC), Thomas McCarthy (North Shore CC), Kristen Miley (Holyoke CC), and Ian Turner (Springfield Technical CC).

NEMATYC schools and individuals placed exceptionally well in the final Northeast Region standings. Of the top 5 schools in the Northeast, NEMATYC schools took 4 places: 1. Massasoit CC, Middlesex CC (tied), 4. Bristol CC, and 5. Springfield Technical CC. In the individual standings, the top 4 in the Northeast came from NEMATYC schools: 1. Nathan Gilbert (Middlesex CC), 2. Thomas Finegan (Massasoit CC) and Carlton Henderson (Bristol CC) (tied), and 4. Thomas Wohlers (Massasoit CC).

It is worth noting that: This was Massasoit's 3rd NE championship in 4 years; This was Nathan Gilbert's second consecutive NE individual championship; and that Springfield Technical CC was in its first year of competition.

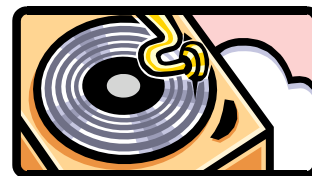
At the AMATYC conference in Minneapolis in November, moderators **Phil Mahler** (Middlesex CC) and **Lois Martin** (Massasoit CC) will be accepting awards on behalf of their teams. Phil will also accept Nathan Gilbert's individual award.

The first test of the 2007-2008 competition will be given in late October/early November. Please consider joining the lively and collegial rivalry among the participating NEMATYC schools. Your students will thank you for giving them the opportunity to compete at the regional and national level.

To join go to <http://www.amatyc.org/>, click on the Student Math League link, and join! Questions? Please contact me via the information on page 2.

Let's Get the Record Straight

In the Fall 2005 edition in the enjoyable musings by **Frank Deane**, it was reported that an activist of the time, **Joan McGowen**, was at Bristol CC in 1967 or so, based on Frank's memory of events then. **Jerry Magnan** of Bristol has reported that Joan was not at Bristol. A review of the NEMATYC history web site (get there through www.nematyc.org of course) shows that in 1972 Joan was Secretary-Treasurer of what was then called MMATYC, and the page for 1973 shows she was at Middlesex CC. For 1967 we should have reported her as at Middlesex. Frank's musings and memories are on the same NEMATYC history site, by the way.



NEMATYC 2008

**34'th Annual
Meeting**

**Send by
December
31**



**See You
There!!**

KEEPING IT REAL IN 08

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 11-12, 2008

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

NEMATYC is pleased to announce its annual call for presenters for our Spring Conference, this year to be held at Springfield Technical Community College, Springfield Massachusetts. Our focus will be on keeping mathematics relevant and effective in the classroom.

Presentations are solicited on any of the following strands:

- Developmental Mathematics
- Precalculus
- Calculus
- Higher-level Mathematics
- Statistics
- Distance Learning
- Technology
- Critical Thinking
- Pedagogy
- Assessment
- Writing in Mathematics
- Service Learning
- Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Presenters should send a 25-50 word abstract that will be included in the program. Include your technology requirements and preferred day (Friday afternoon, Saturday morning or Saturday afternoon, or no preference) and length of presentation (45 minutes, 90 minutes, or a 5 minute lightning talk). One presenter for each 45 or 90 minute session will receive a free registration to the conference.

Lauren Brewer
NEMATYC 2008 Cochair
brewer@stcc.edu
413-755-4791

Vanessa Hill
NEMATYC 2008 Cochair
vhill@stcc.edu
413-755-4797

Send proposals by Mail or Email by **December 31, 2007** to

Lauren Brewer
Springfield Technical Community College
1 Armory Sq
Springfield, MA 01102

brewer@stcc.edu

**Announcing
2nd Annual NEMATYC Fall Dinner Meeting
Friday - October 12, 2007**

4:30 Dinner

5:30 Speaker, followed by... socializing at O'Connor's

Directions at
<http://www.oconnorsrestaurant.com>

**O'Connor's Restaurant & Bar
1160 West Boylston Street
Worcester MA 01606**

∞ Speaker ∞

Cross-cultural Lore ... and Don't Shoot the Messenger!

**Andrew Chen, Ph.D.
EduTron Corporation and M.I.T.**

Abstract: Mathematics education prepares students, workers, and future teachers for college and for careers that require increasingly demanding levels of mathematical skill and thinking. Only an estimated 10% of our adult population is fluent enough in mathematics to consider pursuing such careers, and an alarming number do not have the math skills needed for entry-level jobs.

We have a problem—*An American problem.*

What are learning and teaching like in other parts of the world? How are teachers trained and treated? What are parents like? What do their textbooks look like? Do they have SPED? What about learning culture and expectations? Bring your own data, information, and questions. We will compare notes over dinner. Come join us for a session on the Comparative Biopsy of U.S.A.'s mathematics education—K-12 and beyond. And more importantly, find out what YOU can do about the problems we are facing.

The Speaker: Andrew Chen is the President of EduTron Corporation. He was a professor and a principal research scientist at M.I.T. In addition to doing research in physics, he is involved in improving K-12 mathematics and science education. He is frequently consulted by education research institutions including the Institute for Education Science at the U.S. Dept. of Education, and Achieve, Inc. He served on the Math and Science Partnership Steering Committee of the Massachusetts Department of Education. He regularly works with teachers at all levels by providing "high density" professional development services in Mathematics and Science, known as Intensive Immersion Institute, to teachers at elementary, middle and high schools. He is also working closely with teachers and college professors to develop CLEAR Math courseware being used in more than 35 districts in Massachusetts. He has a Ph.D. in Physics from Columbia University. Contact Andrew at schen@edutron.com.

2nd Annual NEMATYC Fall Dinner Meeting – Registration

Name _____

College Address _____

Email _____

Please make
check payable to
NEMATYC

Enclosed is \$25 NEMATYC member \$30 non-member
Dinner choice Traditional Vegetarian

Detach or copy the lower portion and mail to Elaine Previte, Bristol Community College,
777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Elaine Previte, NEMATYC Past President

Your NEMATYC Needs You!!!



Wanted
*Enthusiastic
mathematics
educators to get
involved!!*

Every year, NEMATYC holds elections for open positions during the business meeting at the annual conference in April. This year, we need to fill several very important Executive Board positions, including President, and are looking for you to help us fill these roles. If you've never been involved with NEMATYC, now is a great time to start!! Working with our Board is a rewarding and fun experience, and is a wonderful way to put your professional dedication into action! It's great for you, your department and college, and the New England mathematics community.

As a brief overview, the Board meets three times per year in addition to attending the annual conference. A tradition we began in 2006, the October Board meeting takes place immediately before the Fall Dinner Meeting. The other two meetings are held when classes are not in session (January and June) and are thus daytime meetings.

Here is a brief overview of the available positions (see the Constitution at www.NEMATYC.org for a more detailed description of each position). Please contact Past President **Elaine Previte** at eprevite@bristol.mass.edu should you wish to place your name – or that of a colleague – into nomination!

President

- Serves two-year term
- Conducts the business meeting at the annual conference
- Presides over Executive Committee meetings

Vice-President

- Serves one-year term
- Conducts meetings and fulfills the obligations of the President if the President cannot
- Assumes Presidency if the President is unable to continue in office

Secretary

- Serves two-year term
- Retains an up-to-date membership list
- Takes minutes at meetings

At-Large Member (2 needed)

- Serves two-year term
- Attend Board meetings
- Perform duties as assigned by the President
- *Note: This is a great way for members to get involved with the Board!!*

Join AMATYC, at www.amatyc.org, click on "Get Involved".

The **AMATYC Conference** this year is November 1-4, 2007, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
Register at www.amatyc.org.

NEMATYC Conference 30, 20, 10, and... 0 Years Ago

NEMATYC 1978 was held at **Bentley College**, Waltham, MA on Saturday, May 13. **Karen Schroeder** of Bentley was coordinator for the meeting, and the cost was \$9. **Alice Schafer** of Wellesley College was the keynote speaker, and the program included **Kent Ericson** of Bentley speaking on *Transfer Students*, and **Harvey Deitel** of Bentley speaking on *Computer Applications to Mathematics*.



NEMATYC 1988 was held at **Bristol Community College**, Fall River, MA on Saturday March 12. **Veronica McConnell** was chair, and the theme was *Mathematics Across the Curriculum*. The keynote speaker was **Sol Garfunkel** of Comap, Inc. on *For All Practical Purposes: Teaching Mathematics Through Television*. Among the 12 presentations were *Math Labs - What, Where, When, And How*, **Joanne Kendall**, Middlesex CC, *Calculus And Discrete Mathematics*, **Bodh Gulati**, Southern Conn. State Univ, *Calculus: What Should Students Learn?*, **Emilio Roxin**, URI, *Incidental Learning In Mathematics*, **Al Roy**, Bristol CC, *Baseball Statistics In The Classroom*, **Stephen Krevisky**, Middlesex CC (CT). A committee was formed to investigate and propose an updated / new constitution. An organizational meeting of **Inez Everest**, South Central CC, **Joe Menard**, CCRI, **Helene Savicki**, Dean JC, **Bob Yawin**, Springfield Technical CC, and **Mike Latina**, CCRI, was held at CCRI on May 31, 1988 at the Warwick Campus. Mike was elected chair of the group. Another meeting was held on September 30, 1988 and a proposed constitution was discussed. It was decided that a broad based instrument with minimal restrictions and rules yet with defined duties for officers should be presented to the 1989 Annual Meeting. This was done.

NEMATYC 1998 was held at **Cape Cod Community College**, West Barnstable, MA on Friday and Saturday, April 3 and 4. The theme was *Teaching in the New Millenium*. Vice president and program chair was **Ted Panitz**. NEMATYC President was **Kath Soderbom**, Massasoit CC. The Friday banquet speaker was **Frank Morgan**, Williams College, who spoke on *Generalizing the Circle and Undergraduate Research or Students Creating Future Mathematics*. A Saturday luncheon plenary session was conducted by Ted, largely around developmental math issues facing us as we moved into the new millenium. Among the 20 presentations were *Real Time Interactive Teaching Using Pictel*, **Gary Getchel**, Cape Cod Community College, *The Internet and Its Resources For Educators*, **Joyce Oster**, Johnson & Wales University, *Applied Laboratories For Algebra, Trigonometry, and Precalculus*, **Anita Penta** and **Robert Cournoyer**, Wentworth Institute of Technology, *Linking Women's Studies and Statistics*, **Anne Wiley** and **Susan Macleod**, Greenfield Community College, *Write, Compute, and Link To the World*, **Roberta Kieronski**, UNH at Manchester, *Problem Solving With EXCEL*, **Carol Hay**, Middlesex Community College.

NEMATYC 2008 was held at **Springfield Technical Community College**, Springfield, MA on Friday and Saturday, April 11 and 12. The theme was *Keeping it Real in 08*. Program cochairs were **Lauren Brewer** and **Vanessa Hill**. NEMATYC President was **Andrew Perry**. You were there...



News from our Campuses and Colleagues

Bunker Hill CC

The Bunker Hill CC 2007 Trustees' Distinguished Service Award was presented at commencement to **Robert T. (Ted) Carlson**, Professor in the Mathematics/Physics Department and Coordinator of Service Learning. Ted is a longtime active math educator, and helped with the 2006 NEMATYC meeting at Bunker Hill. To quote the graduation program "Professor Carlson is an outstanding professor, a master teacher who can get people to smile as they learn mathematics. He is a key player, a genuine leader and pioneer, in an effort that is central to the College's goals and identity right now - promoting civic engagement. Because Professor Carlson has been part of this institution since the very beginning, his approach to education reflects the mission of the College. He launched a tutoring program more than 20 years ago that evolved into BHCC's Tutoring and Academic Support Center. He has fostered connections between the College and the Charlestown community, offering tutoring services at the local public schools as well as at Bunker Hill Community College."

Cape Cod CC

Ted Panitz completed a sabbatical this past Spring semester and put together a pretty comprehensive report on what people are doing around the state and country to improve developmental level math retention and success rates. You can read the report at <http://www.capecod.edu/faculty/tpanitz/sabbat.pdf>. Some highlights:

- Tutoring courses: 1-2 credit tutorial courses
- Required tutoring out of class
- Extra class time for in class tutoring: 4-5 credit courses
- Offer courses in modular form
- Use multiple options for offering courses including self-paced
- Develop learning community options for students
- Offer computer assisted tutoring
- Use Elementary Algebra as a prerequisite for college level math courses instead of Intermediate Algebra
- Develop a Supplemental Instruction Program (SI)
- Offer pre-semester or intercession refresher courses for students who did not test out of DE math
- Use student self assessment and placement approach instead of CPT
- Offer students a challenge exam if they feel their math background is stronger than indicated by the CPT.
- Offer accelerated courses in one semester.

Massasoit CC

The Massasoit Community College Mathematics faculty welcome **Mary Sullivan**, formerly a Cape Cod Community College adjunct, to their ranks. Mary has an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and a master's degree in Statistics. She brings experience teaching online and with tablet pc technology to her new position. Colleague **Lois Martin** is serving as her mentor in the college's pilot mentoring program.

Mount Wachusett CC

Ken Takvorian presented at the MTA Summer Conference at Williams College in August. His workshop "Clickers-Engaging/ Motivating Students While Learning" was well received by 33 people in attendance. He described what an instant response system is, how he uses it in the classroom and how the enthusiasm and participation of his students increased with its use. He would gladly share his experiences with a colleague or make a presentation at your college. Tel.978-630-9232 K_Takvorian@mwcc.mass.edu. Also, Mt. Wachusett is one of 42 two- and four-year colleges and universities in the United States and Puerto Rico to receive a 2007 HP Technology for Teaching grant. **Ken** and colleague **Susan Taylor** and their students will receive HP wireless Tablet PCs to actively engage the students in the learning of math concepts.

New Hampshire Technical Institute, Concord, NH

NHTI welcomed **John Zimmerman**, and returning, former adjunct, now full-time instructor, **Lucyann Zeller** as new faculty. New adjuncts include **Neil Flaherty**, **Sarah Transue**, and **Dick Dunnington**.

North Shore CC

Neha Jain is a new full-time mathematics faculty person. **Marsha Pease** has been chosen as an AMATYC ACCESS fellow for the years, 2007, 2008!

ACCESS continued

Q: At which AMATYC conference did you do the first round of ACCESS?

A: The national AMATYC conference in Cincinnati, November 2006.

Q: Did you like the ACCESS program at this conference?

A: The Project ACCESS program was great. We had workshops and presentations designed especially for instructors new to their 2-year college teaching careers. Some titles of sessions included: “Pedagogies of Engagement and Equity” (Vauhn Foster-Grahler), “Ensuring All Students Learn Math” (Bill Thomas), “Effective Group Work” (Elizabeth Lundy/Lynn Trimpe), “Handheld Technology” (Joe Fiedler/Roseanne Hoffman). We also were introduced to officers of the MAA and AMATYC and heard from a panel on the benefits and opportunities of membership involvement in the organizations. I came away with a strong desire to get involved, and I feel I have the connections and understanding of the organizations that will enable me to navigate my way to projects and committees that interest me.

Q: What surprised you most of the things you learned in Project ACCESS?

A: I came away with a broadened perspective – that teaching is an ever-evolving practice, and there is always a way to rejuvenate your class to make it better for students. There are always people out there with good ideas that might work for you and your students, and it’s important to participate in that dialogue.

Q: What will be very useful to you?

A: I have already used some of the projects from our group project workshop, and I have used ideas from other Project ACCESS fellows in my class.

Q: Did you make some friends for nationwide networking?

A: Yes. I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2007 AMATYC conference in Minneapolis!

Q: Do you think this project has made you a better teacher?

A: Yes, but more importantly, it has given me the network and resources to continue to become a teacher, beyond the scope of the fellowship.

Q: Has this experience made your professional life more enjoyable?

A: Yes. I feel like involvement in the MAA, AMATYC and NEMATYC is important and satisfies my professional interests beyond the classroom.

Q: Did you get to any of the rest of the AMATYC conference outside of the ACCESS program? If so, what are your impressions?

A: We had time to browse the exhibition hall and attend a couple regular sessions with the rest of the AMATYC participants. I found that the ACCESS-specific sessions were more relevant to me as a new faculty member (as they were designed to be). We also participated in the celebration of the release of AMATYC’s “Beyond Crossroads” publication, as well as the general sessions and meals. It was powerful to see such a large community of math educators together.

How many record breaking snowfalls (relative to their own life) would a person expect to see in a lifetime? We will assume that the amount of snowfall in one year is unrelated to the amount which fell in the previous year. In the first year the chance of a record is one out of one, or 1; the second year has a fifty-fifty chance of being more or less than the previous year (or one out of two, or $\frac{1}{2}$). In the third year the chance is $\frac{1}{3}$ (one out of three), since the heaviest snowfall for those three years could have fallen in any one of them. Similarly in the n 'th year the chance of a new record is $\frac{1}{n}$. To find the total number of record snowfalls we must add up the sequence of chances for each year: $1 + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \dots + \frac{1}{n}$. Find the expected number of record snowfalls which a person will “see” in their first ten years of life. How old would one have to be to expect to have seen five record snowfalls?

From *Snowfalls and Elephants, Pop Bottles and π* , by Ralph Boas, from The Two-Year College Mathematics Journal, Volume 11, Number 2, March 1980.

NEMATYC NEWSLETTER
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The News is available in color at www.NEMATYC.org

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

AMATYC Annual Conference

November 1-4, 2007 – Minneapolis, MN

ATMNE Conference 2007 – www.atmne07.org

November 8-9, 2007 – Springfield, MA

ATMNE/ATOMIM Conference 2008

November 6-7, 2008 – Portland, ME

NCTM Conference

April 9-12, 2008 – Salt Lake City, UT

NEMATYC

April 11-12, 2008 – Springfield Technical

Community College, Springfield, MA

MAA Joint Meeting (with AMS, SIAM)

January 6-9, 2008 – San Diego, CA

MAA MathFest

July 31-August 2, 2008 – Madison, WI

NE-MAA

November 16-17, 2007 (Fall Meeting) –

Framingham State College, Framingham, MA

May 30-31, 2008 (Spring Meeting) – Saint

Michael's College, Colchester, VT

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Visit www.NEMATYC.org

See you at

NEMATYC 2008

April 11-12, 2008

Springfield Community College

***Lauren Brewer, Vanessa Hill,
Conference Cochairs***

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