

## NEMATYC NEWS



Vol 17, No 1

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



## From the President Carol Henry

**Northeast Regional** 

Vice President Jane Tanner

From Your AMATYC



#### Welcome back!

September always feels like a new beginning. Summer's hot, humid weather cools down and the days turn into crisp autumn. Everyone's energy level is up as we transition into a new school year. Suddenly we are ready to get going, meet new colleagues and new students, and try new things in our classrooms. Life-long learning helps to renew our energy and stoke our creativity. With the high gasoline prices, some people are reluctant to travel great distances to attend educational courses and workshops. We are very fortunate to have numerous opportunities for professional renewal and growth available to us right here in New England. September is a good time to look back on what we have done over the past year and to investigate where we hope to go over the coming year.

Continued on page 3

#### **NEMATYC Colleagues:**

Where did the summer go? It seems like a few weeks ago we were finishing up our grading from the spring semester and now we are already a few weeks into the fall. I do hope that you have had a successful beginning to your semester!

As I am writing this article, Hurricane Ike is devastating our gulf coast. It is hard to believe that this area is again being targeted by damaging weather conditions. Why is this important for AMATYC and NEMATYC? Are you familiar with the NSF-funded project The Right Stuff: Appropriate Mathematics for All Students? One of the modules created for The Right Stuff deals with hurricanes. The module examines a mathematical model that relates the pressure wind creates (in psf) to the velocity of the wind Continued on page 4

NEMATYC 2009

35th Annual Meeting

## FILL UP YOUR MATH TANK

**Southern New Hampshire University** Manchester, NH Friday and Saturday April 24-25, 2009



Announcement & Call for Presenters Inside

#### NEMATYC'09

## Fill Up Your Math Tank

To paraphrase those great rock-n-roll poets Aerosmith, "We're back in the saddle again!" Southern New Hampshire University had such a good time hosting the conference in 2006 that we signed on again for 2009. We'll do our best to have everything run as smooth as possible, but please remember it's the presenters and attendees who really make the conference special. NEMATYC has a fantastic collection of people, and we need all of you in Manchester on April 24-25, 2009. We know gas prices are high, and everyone's time is valuable, but we promise to "fill up your math tank" with great ideas if you join us. Special thanks go out to Phil Mahler for coming up with the conference theme. Modesty probably kept him from suggesting "Phil up your math tank."



Co-chairs for NEMATYC 09 this spring, **David Cox** and **Alec Ingraham**, receiving the attendees of NEMATYC 2006, which was also held at Southern New Hampshire University.

See http://history.nematyc.info/NEMATYC\_2006/ for some pics of that conference.

#### NEMATYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2009

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During the summer, there were a number of AMATYC programs that offered opportunities to get some fresh ideas to bring into our classes. In our region, Cape Cod Community College hosted the AMATYC Statistics Summer Institute. This five-day workshop was very well attended!

In July, as the first part of a three-year NSF grant, Middlesex Community College held an inhouse Math Across the Community College Curriculum Workshop. This was a fabulous opportunity to work with colleagues from other disciplines as we worked together to develop curriculum that integrates mathematics.

AMATYC's 34th Annual Conference will take place in Washington, DC from November 20th through the 23rd. Washington, DC should be "a monumental place for mathematics"! Make your plans now to join your colleagues in DC. Check out amatyc.org for conference details. The AMATYC website, amatyc.org, has a new design. Check it out! The website is a wonderful resource.

NEMATYC has a number of exciting events planned for this year. In early Fall we hold our annual Fall Dinner Meeting. This year, September 26th at 5:00 pm is the date set for our third annual Fall Dinner Meeting. The Papa Razzi restaurant in Wellesley was chosen as the site for this event and Sir Isaac Newton (aka Chuck Straley from Wheaton College) was invited to make a guest appearance. Imagine what your students will think when you tell them that you have actually spoken with Sir Isaac Newton! Our past dinner meetings have proven to be a wonderful opportunity to learn new ideas while meeting with colleagues and friends at a fun informal professional meeting.

NEMATYC 2009, our 35th Annual Meeting, will take place at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH on Friday and Saturday April 24 – 25. This is the same location as our 2006 meeting, which was a great success.

Looking ahead to next summer, there are two events that have already been planned. Next summer a second Math Across the Curriculum workshop will be available to all members of NEMATYC. As soon as the date has been established, I will pass that information along. I urge you to leave room on your calendar for this terrific workshop. As a result of this past summer's workshop, I have been paired with someone who teaches literature courses. This semester we will be presenting a unit that integrates mathematics into her Children's Literature course. I can't wait to try out our new lessons.

Another opportunity for professional development will be an AMATYC Beyond Crossroads summer workshop, which will take place at Cape Cod Community College, June 11th – 12th. The lodging arrangements for this workshop have been made at a beach-front resort. What a winning combination – an opportunity to learn new classroom strategies while relaxing at the beach!

Planning is already underway for AMATYC 2010 which will be held here in Boston. Long time AMATYC and NEMATYC activist, Jack Keating, from Massasoit CC, has begun recruiting people to help out with all of the planning. Please consider volunteering to work with him to make AMATYC 2010 an incredible experience for all who come to Boston to attend this conference.

Don't forget to bookmark the NEMATYC web site – this is where you will find the latest news about NEMATYC events!

Do you remember how great it felt to start off a new school year with your freshly sharpened pencils and a new blank notebook, a notebook ready to be filled with new knowledge? Each Fall our students arrive with their hopes for reaching future goals and their desire to learn new things, not just the 'same old stuff'. Many of us have taught our courses more times than we can count. So, it is important for us to approach these classes with renewed energy, new ideas, and new methodologies. The best way to revitalize our teaching is to continue learning from each other and through professional development activities. I hope that you will take advantage of some of the workshops that are being offered this year. Invite your colleagues to join you at some of these events. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Have a wonderful semester.

Carol Henry NEMATYC President Middlesex Community College From the Regional VP – continued from page 1

(in mph). This module has handouts, assessment items, PowerPoints, and other types of files. If you are interested in using this in your classes, please look at http://www.therightstuff.amatyc.org/materials.htm for this module and some other examples.

Do you know a colleague who has made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at a two-year college? Is this person an outstanding teacher? Why don't you consider nominating this person for the 2009 AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award? The nomination packet is due on December 8, 2008 and recipients will be honored at the 2009 Annual Conference in Las Vegas. Further information is available at

http://www.amatyc.org/awards/TeachingExcellence/in dex.htm. NEMATYC's own Lois Martin was one of the 2007 Teaching Excellence award winners and she will be presenting "Adapting Face-to-Face Course Materials for Distance Learning" at the upcoming AMATYC Conference in Washington, DC.

I hope to see a lot of NEMATYC members at the annual conference on November 20-23, 2008. The theme of the conference is "Washington, DC – A Monumental Place for Mathematics." Come find out "Why Physics is Phun?" from David ("Dr. D") Wright of the "NASA Science Files" TV series. Another highlight is the opening session address by Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He will be speaking on "21st Century Math Education: Promoting Success Among All Students."

If you are interested in learning more about AMATYC, there will be three sessions in DC for you:

- AMATYC 101 Enhancing Your First Conference Experience
- AMATYC 201 Professional Opportunities Through AMATYC
- AMATYC 299 Leadership and Getting Involved

Come to these sessions to find out what AMATYC is all about! More information about this conference can be found at the AMATYC web site, http://www.amatyc.org.

Plans are already underway for the 2009 AMATYC Conference in Las Vegas on November 12-15. The theme of this meeting is "High Expectations". Please consider submitting a proposal to present. Proposals

can be submitted at www.amatyc.org beginning November 1, 2008. The deadline for submitting this proposal is February 1, 2009.

There are new things happening with AMATYC's publications.

- The website www.amatyc.org has a new appearance that will make searching the site easier. The most popular links are located on the home page to make it easier for you. Remember this site contains past publications, job announcements, conference and workshop information, affiliate information, award and election information, etc.
- AMATYC News is the newsletter of AMATYC that comes out five times a year. There will be a new Focus on Affiliates series beginning with the next issue (October 2008). Affiliate presidents will be invited to submit articles on the great things that they are doing. Make sure NEMATYC President Carol Henry knows what wonderful things you are doing at your college.
- The AMATYC Review is being retired with the printing of the Fall 2008 issue. A new journal is being planned and AMATYC needs your help. Articles of interest to two-year college faculty are needed for the new (unnamed) journal. Potential topics include developmental mathematics, placement and assessment, mathematics intensive, teacher prep, innovative pedagogical strategies, division/department issues, and mathematics for AAS programs. Are you doing something innovative in your classroom in one of these areas? Let others know about it by writing an article and submitting it (for now) to Beverly Vance at amatyc@amatyc.org.

I hope that you are already a member of AMATYC and are taking advantage of all the benefits of membership. If you are not a member, go to https://www.alphacommerce.com/amatyc/membership 08.aspx to become a member and start to enjoy all of the benefits.

I hope to see you in Washington in November. Have a good semester and remember that if you have any questions or input, get in touch with me! I am YOUR representative on AMATYC's Executive Board.

Jane



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.

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

#### **Professional Development Events**

- **AMATYC** (American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges), Washington, DC, Nov 20-23, 2008, register at http://www.amatyc.org.
- AMTE (Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators), Thirteenth Annual Conference, Orlando, FL, February 5-7, 2009, http://www.amte.net/, http://www.amte.net/conf index 2009.shtml
- ATMNE (Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England) Annual Conference, 2008 A Year of Infinite Possibilities, Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME, November 6-7, 2008, http://members.aceweb.com/bowdish/atmne/profdev.html#atmne2008
- **ATOMIC** Associated Teachers of Mathematics In Connecticut Fall 2008 Conference, December 1, 2008, Mohegan Sun http://atomicmath.org/
- MAA Northeastern Section Meeting, Bentley College, Waltham, MA, November 21-22, 2008, http://www.maa.org/meetings/meetings.html
- **MAA-AMS Joint Mathematics Meeting Marriott** Wardman Park Hotel and Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC, January 5-8, 2009, http://www.maa.org/, http://e-math.ams.org/amsmtgs/national.html
- ml · A MONUMENTAL PLACE FOR HAT MATYCONN FALL 2008 Meeting and Presentations, Gateway CC, Long Wharf Campus, New Haven, CT, October 24, 2008. http://www.matyconn.org/News Announcements/MATYCONNfall2008flyer.pdf
- NEMATYC Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH, April 24-25, 2009
- T3 International Conference (Teachers Teaching with Technology International Conference), Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA, February 27-March 1, 2009 http://education.ti.com/educationportal/sites/US/nonProductMulti/pd conferences seattle.html

The **AMATYC Conference** this year is November 20-23, Washington DC. Register at www.amatyc.org.

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## 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.

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.

#### Do you offer your best students a chance to compete nationally?

#### Report Fall 2008

Last year's recipients of NEMATYC's Student Math League Recognition Awards were: Guang Li, Middlesex Community College (#2 in the individual competition in the Northeast Region); Guy Vin Chang, Southern Maine Community College; Christopher Park, Cape Cod Community College; Artem Maksov, Springfield Technical Community College; and Rungfeng Chen, Bristol Community College

In the 2007-2008 Northeast Region team standings, Southern Maine Community College, the top NEMATYC service area team, placed fifth. In 6<sup>th</sup> place, Massasoit Community College lead the pack of Massachusetts schools: Springfield Technical Community College, Bristol Community College, Holyoke Community College, Middlesex Community Col

nity College, Cape Cod Community College, North Shore Community College, and Mt. Wachusett Community College.

Thank you to all of the team moderators who have given their time and energy to this valuable student experience.

The first test of the 2008-2009 competition will be given in mid October/early November. If your college doesn't have a team, 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..

#### JOIN NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC?

Join by sending the \$5.00 annual membership fee, payable to NEMATYC, to

Lauren Brewer, NEMATYC Treasurer Springfield Technical Community College 1 Armory Sq Springfield, MA 01105

## Call for Presenters NEMATYC 2009

Send by January 13

## Fill Up Your Math Tank Southern New Hampshire University – Manchester, NH

**April 24 – 25, 2009** 

using tablet pc's, or any other you feel is relevant!
Presenter(s)
*** Note the registration fee for ONE presenter per presentation will be waived. Please specify which one if there are multiple presenters. ***
Contact information:         College or affiliation Telephone
Address
E-mail (If home address and telephone number are preferred, please list those as well.)
Time preference: Please indicate a first and second choice.
Friday afternoon Saturday Morning Saturday Afternoon No Preference
Length of presentation:45 Minutes90 Minutes
Presentation Title:
Abstract:
Equipment/technology needs:
Workshops, short seminars, discussion panels and poster sessions are encouraged. If you need additional information or have any questions, please call David Cox, 1-603-668-2211 (ext. 2223), or email d.cox@snhu.edu
Proposal Deadline Date: January 13, 2009 Send to: David Cox, NEMATYC 2009 Co-Chairperson, SNHU 2500 N. River Road, Manchester, NH 03106 or send via e-mail to: d.cox@snhu.edu (If you don't receive an email reply within 24 hours, please call David Cox at the above number.)
Electronic Submissions are encouraged. Please include all of the above information.

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## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Andrew Perry, NEMATYC Past President

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 Vice President and two Executive Committee at-large positions. We 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 **Andrew Perry** at perryand@yahoo.com should you wish to place your name – or that of a colleague – into nomination!

#### Vice-President

- 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

#### At-Large Member (2 needed)

- Two-year term
- Attend Board meetings
- Perform duties as assigned by the President
- A great way to get involved with the Board!!

From the Archives at www.NEMATYC.org.

# NEMATYC Conference 30, 20, 10, and... 1 Year Ago

**NEMATYC 1979** was held at **Mass Bay Community College**, Wellesley, MA on Saturday, March 31. **John Jacobs** produced a four page newspaper to serve as the program, full of math teasers, quotes, and other non trivial trivia.



NEMATYC 1989 was held at Dean Junior College, Franklin, MA on Saturday March 4. Helene S. Savicki was the chair of the conference, whose theme was The Mathematics Curriculum: Turn On A Turn-Off. Talks ranged from Classroom And Tutorial Strategies For Teaching Remedial Mathematics To Students With Learning Disabilities by Jacob M. Appleman, Queensborough CC to Chaos And Fractals: An Overview, by Hank Harmeling, North Shore CC.

**NEMATYC 1999** was held at the University of New Hampshire at Manchester, Manchester, New Hampshire, on Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, 1999. This was the 25th Anniversary Meeting. Vice president and program chair was **Roberta Kieronski**.

**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**. **Some pictures**.



Rich Burns and Jean-Marie Magnier ready to present Six Problems that Every SML Participant Should Know, being introduced by Judy Carter.



Barry Woods presents on One Sample Inferential Statistics Using Excel.



The book exhibits, always popular....



... almost as popular as a convivial lunch.



The table centerpieces were replete with math humor. ... Why did the chicken cross the Möbius strip?

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### **News from our Campuses and Colleagues**

Cape Cod CC

Cape Cod hosted an AMATYC conference on statistics this past June. The picture shows a population sample of the attendees. The beachfront lodging and whale watching field trip helped energize participants who attended this five-day AMATYC Summer Statistics Institute, on GAISEing Beyond the Crossroads: Improving Instruction in Introductory Statistics. Thirty faculty members from across the country, including eight of our NEMATYC colleagues, explored and developed classroom activities and assessments based on the ASA endorsed Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistics Education and AMATYC's Beyond Crossroads recommendations.

**Michael Fernandes** started teaching at CCCC this semester. His focus is on developmental mathematics.



#### **Emerson College**

**Eiki Satake** has published two textbooks this year. (1) A Handbook of Statistical Methods: Single Subject Design, Plural Publishing, San Diego, CA (2) Introductory Statistics: A First Course, Kendall/Hunt Publishing, Iowa

#### Massasoit CC

Mary Sullivan has been selected for the 2008-2009 Project ACCCESS cohort, the 5th!

#### MassBay CC

**Meredith Watts** has been selected for the 2008-2009 Project ACCCESS cohort, the 5th! Meredith and **Bob O'Connell** participated in a series of workshops on *How People Learn*. This grant-funded activity is produced by Northeastern University.

#### Middlesex CC

Middlesex announces a new full time colleague, **Maria Arambel**. Maria has been coordinating the college STEM programs.

Middlesex has also received a three-year NSF CCLI grant to support a Math Across the Curriculum initiative. As the first step in the Math across the Curriculum grant, Co-Leaders Carol Hay (Math Department chair) and Jessie Klein (Science) hosted a MAC workshop at the Essex Conference Center in Essex, MA in late July. Participants emanated from three different academic divisions, including these math colleagues: Joanna Delmonaco, Beth Fraser, Carol Henry, and Mike Williamson. Faculty worked in teams to develop lessons that integrated math lessons into their course content. The second year of the grant will be extended to include faculty from other colleges and/or high schools who would be interested in developing MAC projects. To this end, we will again offer a three-day Institute in either late May or early June, 2009. We invite you all to consider attending, but space is limited to 12 faculty (6 or fewer teams) from other schools. More specific information about this Institute will be available at the AMATYC (Nov., 2008), MAA (January, 2009) and NEMATYC (April, 2009) conferences.

This year the college will also be hosting an internal series of workshops on *How People Learn* (see the notes on MassBay). Several NEMATYC members have already participated, including this newsletter editor.

#### North Shore CC

Marsha L. Pease, North Shore, is in the 2007-2008, 4th, cohort, of the AMATYC Project ACCCESS program.

Ever heard of http://www.rentcalculators.org/? I just did as I was going to press. Just FYI. Phil

# **Beyond Crossroads Summer Workshop**

Beyond CROSSROADS

Cape Cod, MA

June 11-12, 2009

#### The BC Way: Embracing Change for Continuous Improvement

Full implementation of the standards outlined in *Beyond Crossroads* includes making a commitment to continuous improvement in instruction to enhance student learning. Come to beautiful Cape Cod to establish or deepen that commitment.

The two-day workshop/conference will have multiple sessions from which to choose. Faculty teams are encouraged to attend, but individuals are welcome as well. There will be plenary sessions and concurrent break-out sessions, with opportunities for faculty teams to work on specific *Beyond Cross-roads* standards and recommendations.

#### Goals for attendees

- Engage in discussions of the messages of *Beyond Crossroads* and attend sessions that illustrate implementation of Beyond Crossroads recommendations.
- Discuss assessment strategies at the class, course, and programs levels which support the Scholarship of Teaching.
- Use one of the *Beyond Crossroads* Implementation Cycles to create an implementation plan for a project of choice.
- Participate in a workshop web site to follow-up and collaborate on the participant's project.

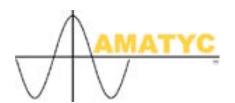
#### **Conference Site and Lodging**

The conference will take place on scenic Cape Cod, Massachusetts. With its quaint small town atmosphere, long sandy beaches, scenic harbors, and fried clams and lobster specialties, "the Cape" is a world famous tourist destination.

The workshop will be held on the campus of Cape Cod Community College. Lodging will be at a beach front resort motel. Attendees will have the opportunity to lengthen their stay before, and perhaps after, the workshop. Visit www.amatyc.org for updated information after the Fall 2008 conference.

#### **Registration Information and Timeline**

Registration materials will be available at www.amatyc.org in January 2009. Registration and hotel reservations must be submitted by April 17, 2009. Contact Rob Farinelli at rfarinelli@csmd.edu for more information.



AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES SOUTHWEST TENESSEE CC 5983 MACON COVE MEMPHIS, TN 38134 www.amatyc.org

NEMATYC News – Fall 2008

NEMATYC NEWSLETTER Philip Mahler, Editor Middlesex Community College 591 Springs Road Bedford, MA 01730-1197



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

## Visit www.NEMATYC.org

See you at

## NEMATYC 2009 April 24-25, 2009 Southern New Hampshire University

David Cox and Alec Ingraham, Cochairs

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