



# NEMATYC NEWS



Newsletter of the New England Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges

Vol. 12, No. 1

Fall, 2003

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Maureen Woolhouse

On behalf of the Board of NEMATYC, I offer you a belated welcome back to another year of academic challenges and professional growth opportunities. This summer, like many of you, I attended some sessions designed to improve my pedagogical practices. When the date for the training sessions arrived, the day was one of the few uncharacteristically dry and balmy ones of this past season. I seriously questioned my sanity in sacrificing such a perfect golf day in the cause of professional development. "When", I asked myself, "would I ever be a finished product, if not now at my particularly ripe age?" "When would my need for training end and my pedagogical skills be finally honed?"

In answer to my question, I recalled something a reading of Albert Camus, the French existentialist, revealed that seemed to rattle inside my head: "Without work all life goes rotten. But when work is soulless, life stifles and dies". I realized that without trying new ideas and methods that my enthusiasm for teaching would stifle and die. As professionals, we provide a sense of soul to our work by constantly striving to become better at reaching every last student in our classes.

As you read this edition of the newsletter, a team of dedicated professionals at Mount Wachusett Community College has already begun preparation on an excellent opportunity for professional development. Bonnie Wicklund and Paul Laverty are Co-chairs of the NEMATYC 2004 spring conference. They have included in this newsletter a call for presenters. As I learned from my summer seminar on Reflective Teaching Practices, sharing information with colleagues about both successful and unsuccessful moments in the classroom is an excellent way to improve teaching

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## CONFERENCE CHAIRS' COLUMN

Bonnie Wicklund & Paul Laverty

As you begin your Fall semester, focusing on the demanding job of teaching mathematics to the young and not-so-young, you're probably searching for an opportunity to share your classroom successes and not-so-successes with colleagues who not only understand, but truly care about your challenges. Well, that opportunity is right around the corner. NEMATYC 2004: **CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS** will be held April 2 & 3, 2004 at Mount Wachusett Community College's beautiful campus in Gardner, MA. Yes, we are the Furniture Capital of New England, and for these few days in early Spring, with your enthusiastic support, we will also be the Mathematics Capital of New England.

As I always tell my students: if you've got a question or concern, rest assured that others in the class have the same question or concern. And now I tell my colleagues: if you're intrigued by some technique, strategy or approach, rest assured that others in the mathematics community want to share that successful technique, strategy or approach. So I urge you to consider making a presentation at our conference. General themes include teaching techniques, active learning strategies, distance education, assessment, technology, regional collaborations, changing student demographics, and other relevant topics. Share with us your new experiences, your college's creative responses to mathematics education, your new grant opportunities, as well as your tried and true approaches to this most challenging and rewarding profession. A Call for Presenters is included in this newsletter.

Leaving no willing participant behind, let us strive to **CLIMB NEW HEIGHTS** in mathematics education.

**See you at the Mount in April.**

**NEMATYC 2004**  
**CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS**  
**Mount Wachusett Community College**  
**Gardner, MA**  
**April 2 & 3, 2004**

## Message from Phil Mahler

### AMATYC President

I write a President's column for the *AMATYC News*, and won't repeat any of that here. Instead I'd rather share some personal thoughts about AMATYC with my NEMATYC colleagues.

I am finishing my AMATYC Presidency at the Salt Lake City conference in November. I can tell you that the Presidency has been a lot of fun. It has taken me to conferences and workshops which I would never have otherwise attended, discussing technical mathematics, the MAA's American Mathematics Olympiad, reform of the math preparation of teachers, reform of the college algebra course, projects on a mentoring program for new TYC faculty (the MAA has an excellent one for four-year faculty called Project NeXT), revising the AMATYC "standards"... I have had the privilege of keynoting or speaking at several affiliate meetings, and attending the math Olympiad festivities in the State Department building in Washington. In fact I have probably made 20 trips to Washington DC in the last 2 years or so, as well as trips to Dallas (four or five times now), Cleveland, New York City several times, San Diego, New Orleans several times, Denver, Albuquerque, Boston, Providence, Cincinnati, Monterey, Burlington VT, Alexandria, VA, ... NC. That may be the complete list but it's hard to say. I've met many of the best and the brightest math educators at two year and four year institutions –

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### NEMATYC President's message (cont)

techniques. I hope that you will share some of your own experiences in the classroom with your colleagues from New England by submitting a presentation. Please consider some small way in which you can assist a colleague by permitting them an opportunity to rejoice with you on successful teaching moment or to lament with you over a classroom strategy that didn't work particularly well.

At our fall Board meeting, Roberta Kieronski, Past President of NEMATYC and current Nominating Committee Chair, revealed that many Board positions would be eligible for election in the spring of 2004 at the annual meeting. Among the positions available for the slate are: president, vice-president, secretary and member-at-large. If you are considering running for any of these positions and would like more information concerning the responsibilities involved in holding an office, please contact either Roberta Kieronski or me (see below). For those of you unfamiliar with the NEMATYC Board, the member-at-large position gives individuals an opportunity to observe the work of the Board at close range but with a low level of responsibility and commitment.

NEMATYC can only operate at its full potential with the commitment of members like you. Please don't assume that someone else will step up to the plate to pull together a presentation for the conference or to run for elected office.

You are the organization and it needs you.

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Think about extending your participation. Run for office. Join the Executive Committee. The Association can use your experience, your knowledge and your energy.

**Call for Presenters**  
**NEMATYC 2004: *CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS***  
Mount Wachusett Community College – Gardner, MA  
**April 2 – 3, 2004**

Suggested themes: Teaching techniques, active learning strategies, distance education, assessment, technology, regional collaborations, changing student demographics– or any other you feel is relevant!

Presenter(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
*\*\*\* please note: the registration fee for ONE presenter per presentation will be waived \*\*\**

**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 Minutes     90 Minutes

**Presentation Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abstract:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Equipment/technology needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

Computer workshops are available, please speak with Bonnie as you prepare your session.

Workshops, short seminars, discussion panels and poster sessions are encouraged. If you need additional information or have any questions, please call Bonnie Wicklund, 978-630-9306, or email bwicklund@mwcc.mass.edu

**Proposal Deadline Date: *January 8, 2004***

**Mail to: Bonnie Wicklund, NEMATYC 2004 Co-Chairperson, MWCC 444 Green Street, Gardner, MA 01440 or Fax: 978-630-9554**

**or send via e-mail**

**Bwicklund@mwcc.mass.edu**

<b>Electronic Submissions Preferred    Please include all the above information</b>
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**SEND PROPOSALS BY JANUARY 8, 2004**

NEMATYC is looking for presenters who are willing to share their classroom experiences. Step out of the shadows and into the limelight for 45 or 90 minutes of self-proclaimed fame. Other professionals are eagerly awaiting to hear about *your* ideas, *your* experiences, *your* techniques, *your* strategies and *your* approaches to mathematics education. What have you tried that has brought you success?

**E-mail submissions preferred Bwicklund@mwcc.mass.edu**

Fill out the form on the other side and send a short (25-50 word) abstract. Feel free to attach any additional supporting information. Indicate your day preference (Friday afternoon, Saturday or no preference), length of session (45-90 minutes) and equipment needs. Include your phone number, college address and e-mail address. One presenter for each session will be given a free registration. If you have questions, please call:

**Bonnie Wicklund, 978-630-9306 Bwicklund@mwcc.mass.edu FAX: 978-630-9554**

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## **CALL FOR PRESENTERS NEMATYC 2004**

***“CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS”***

**MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
GARDNER, MA**

**APRIL 2 – 3, 2004**

-----Use the form on the other side, fold and seal-----

First Class Postage Required
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**Bonnie Wicklund  
NEMATYC 2004 Co-Chair  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
444 Green Street  
Gardner, MA 01440**

**Looking Back & Looking Ahead** Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England's (ATMNE) Centennial Celebration 1903-2003" November 6-8, 2003 The Center of New Hampshire in Manchester, New Hampshire

Sixty-one sessions, 78 workshops and 7 mini-courses for a total of 146 educational opportunities will be offered during this three-day celebration.. Five "centennial speakers" have been invited - for Thursday, Waldeck Mainville and Art Johnson; for Friday, Carol Greenes and Margaret Kenney and for Saturday, Father Stanley Bezuska. The Balomenos Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr. Carol Findell from Boston University on Thursday from 4 to 5 pm. From 5 pm to 7 pm the Balomenos Reception is being held in two locations:

A) Expo Center For those of you who have never experienced a Family Math Night now is your chance. In the Exhibit Hall (Expo Center) there will be a working model of a Family Math Night. Come have some fun! You can try promiscuous problems from old textbooks. In 1900 to 1910 the authors were very creative. You might want to take the test given to potential teachers in New Hampshire back in 1903! There will be an exhibit of ATMNE history and a cash bar will be available from 5 until 7 pm. Prentice Hall has graciously sponsored the Hors d'oeuvres.

B) SEE Science Center Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be available. You will be able to explore theories of science ranging from bubble-making to space and momentum through more than 60 hands-on exhibits. See what the SEE Science Center can do for your classroom. Gift shop with inexpensive math/science related items will be open.

On Friday there will be two special functions. In the morning a breakfast will be held with guest speaker Dale Seymour whose talk is titled "Bandwagons, Basics, Common Sense, and Tessellating Pancakes". Sessions and workshops will run from 9 am until 5 pm. In the evening, ATMNE's 100th Birthday Celebration and Banquet will include ATMNE history and entertainment by Len Cabral, Master Storyteller. There will be many things to do and learn during this three-day conference.

The cost for a three-day ATMNE member registration is \$80, while a one-day registration is \$65. The cost of a hotel room at The Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn is \$95 plus tax. The entire program booklet and registration form can be found on the NHTM's website: [www.nhtm.org](http://www.nhtm.org).

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**\$5.00**

That's all it takes to maintain your membership when you miss one of our annual conferences. Pretty small sum for one terrific organization that will help you keep on top of your profession.

Send your \$5, your name, college affiliation, preferred address and e-mail to Lois Martin, NEMATYC Treasurer, 25 Lydon Lane, Kingston, MA 02364

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<p>In addition to a Constitution, NEMATYC maintains a Policy Manual which gives guidance to the Executive Committee and sets the overall agenda for the year. This is the NEMATYC General Calendar</p>	<p>Early October</p>	<p>Fall Newsletter announces call for presenters for spring conference</p>
<p>Summer Summer Executive Board Meeting (usually June)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss annual conference</li> <li>Review Executive Board Policy manual</li> <li>Discuss membership</li> <li>Create list of open Executive Committee positions.</li> </ul>	<p>January</p>	<p>Nominations committee submits a slate of candidates to the Executive Board</p>
<p>September 15</p>	<p>Past President appoints a 3 – 5 person nominations committee with the past president as an ex-officio member.</p>	<p>January</p> <p>Winter Executive Committee meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certify nominees for elected positions</li> <li>Review and consider new business for the annual meeting</li> <li>Discuss the upcoming conference</li> </ul>
<p>Sept/Oct</p>	<p>Fall Executive Committee Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose site for future conference (2 years in advance)</li> <li>Discuss upcoming conference</li> <li>Receive list of members of Nominating Committee</li> <li>Review the NEMATYC Constitution for potential changes</li> </ul>	<p>End of January</p> <p>Spring Newsletter announces the program for the spring conference</p>
		<p>March/April</p> <p>Annual Conference and Annual NEMATYC Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct elections for open Executive Committee Positions</li> <li>Present any new business</li> <li>Acknowledge AMATYC officers</li> </ul>
		<p>April 30</p> <p>Audit of Treasurer's books completed</p>

# Call for Math Adjuncts to Share Your Experiences Help Us All Stay on the Top of Our Profession

**The New England Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges offers you membership in the only local organization specifically designed to address the needs of two-year math faculty.**

For a mere \$5.00 per year, you will receive:

Membership in NEMATYC

Local newsletters

Advanced notification of local conferences

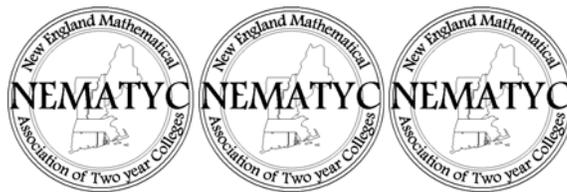
Information regarding current trends in the profession

Job postings for New England area

Opportunities to network with colleagues.

To join NEMATYC, simply send \$5 with your name, address, college affiliation and e-mail address to

**Lois Martin**  
**NEMATYC Treasurer**  
**25 Lydon Lane**  
**Kingston, MA 02364**



Each spring, NEMATYC holds an annual conference. Your colleagues from local two-year colleges as well as state colleges and universities offer presentations on a variety of topics. These include:

Integration of technology into the math curriculum

Recent pedagogical trends such as reflective practice and universal design for learning.

Assessment strategies

Curriculum reform

Activities to make classes more vibrant.

The conference fee for adjunct faculty is minimal – just enough to cover the cost of your lunch.



**You are: Godsend, hard working, abused, beginners and seasoned veterans, knowledgeable, under-appreciated, dedicated, and very difficult for an organization to find. Join us and help us help you to help us all. You have proven many times that you have much to offer. So do we. Come share with us.**

**Join NEMATYC**

**PLEASE SEPARATE THIS PAGE AND GIVE  
COPIES TO ALL OUR MATH ADJUNCTS**

## Friday at the Inn (think 'Midnight at the Oasis')

At the upcoming 2004 NEMATYC conference, all the Friday activities will be held at the Wachusett Village Inn in Westminster, conveniently located right off Route 2 (room rates are surprisingly affordable). Registration and afternoon sessions will be held in the Inn's conference rooms. The delicious meal will be served in its charming banquet facility. Historians Tom and Brenda Malloy will help cleanse our palate with a scintillating slide presentation of "Murder in Massachusetts – It's Written in Stone." In many cases, the gravestone epitaphs that document the cause of death as murder also noted the perpetrator(s) of the crime, thus ensuring that those responsible for such a horrific act would have their names literally written in stone. Might we find such an epitaph indicating murder by "weapons of math instruction"?

The rest of the evening will be ours for socializing and relaxing, partaking of the Inn's many amenities, including a swimming pool and fitness center. After an early Saturday morning checkout, a short ride brings us to the beautiful Mount Wachusett Community College campus where a full day's agenda awaits.

So this year join us for both the Friday afternoon/evening adventures as well as the Saturday sessions. You won't be disappointed.

### Summarized Secretary's Reports from Annual Meeting

3/29/03

Tom Pandolfini and the Johnson & Wales University's "Cooking Up a Conference" was a success. The Body reaffirmed an earlier Executive Board vote stating we are a 501c (3) organization to preserve our tax exempt status. Elaine Previte was elected Vice President and Bonnie-Lou Wicklund was elected Executive Committee member-at-large. There are plenty of opportunities to expand one's involvement in NEMATYC. Contact Roberta Kieronski or Maureen Woolhouse There were many door prizes thanks to Tom Pandolfini's efforts.

### Executive Meeting 6/20/03

The Executive Committee received a detailed report on the 2003 Conference which netted the organization \$1,587. The Committee has made considerable efforts in its membership

drive. Letters to those who miss a conference asking for \$5 to sustain their membership have been fruitful. The Committee is continually reviewing and revising their policy manual so there is consistency and continuity within the organization. Bunker Hill CC's request to host the 2005 conference was approved with Southern NH University making a bid for 2006. Bonnie Wicklund, Ken Takvorian and Paul Laverty presented their preliminary plans for the 2004 Conference at Mount Wachusett CC in Gardner, MA. Our website is undergoing revisions. The nominating committee will form soon to help replace retiring officers. Steve Krivinsky of MATYCON spoke with us about greater cooperation and affiliation between the two groups. Jack Keating, AMATYC Vice President spoke about the AMATYC conference in Salt Lake City on 11/03. The new STANDARDS are out and should be reviewed by everybody. NEMATYC will donate \$200 to help subsidize the hospitality room.

## AMATYC 2004 MATHEMATICS EXCELLENCE AWARD

The American mathematical Association of Two Year colleges seeks nominations for its 2004 mathematics Excellence (ME) award. This award is for educators who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at the two-year college. Award criteria include: national reputation, leadership, professional presentations, awards and grants received, publications, professional activities, teaching expertise, and other contributions to mathematics and/or mathematics education. Nominations are due November 4, 2003. for more information visit the AMATYC website: [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org).

**Phil Mahler, (continued from page 2)**- people whose very name carries weight or is synonymous with certain movements and trends; I can say I know many of them - a real privilege for me. I've learned a ton about the math preparation of teachers, algebra reform, the use of technology, assessment - and also realized how much there is to know.

I can tell you that NEMATYC is a fine organization, right up there with the best (of course it is the best in my partisan book). I am proud to be a member, and past president, of NEMATYC, and look forward to our meetings this year and in years to come.

As I end my experience as AMATYC President, I'm mindful of how John Jacobs once characterized his experience with AMATYC Boston in 1993... it is a great thing to have done. Emphasis on the done.

Join the National  
Association  
AMATYC  
Go to the Website  
[www.AMATYC.org](http://www.AMATYC.org)

Hear a great presentation somewhere? We would like to hear it too. Send the particulars to Bonnie Wicklund at The Mount.

Looking for that new text? Don't know what is available? Come to the Mount and there will be many publishers there displaying their texts.

**NEMATYC NEWSLETTER**  
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**NEMATYC 2004: *CLIMBING NEW HEIGHTS***  
**Mount Wachusett Community College – Gardner, MA**

**April 2 – 3, 2004**

### **Renew your Membership**

If you are unable to attend NEMATYC 2004: Climbing New Heights, you can still renew your membership. This will ensure you will receive the Newsletter and notification of future NEMATYC meetings. Please send your name, preferred mailing address and the \$5.00 membership fee to Lois Martin, NEMATYC Treasurer, 25 Lydon Lane, Kingston, MA 02364