



NEMATYC NEWS

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Vol 13, No 2

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

Spring, 2005

31st Annual Meeting

Mathematics for the Real World

*Conference
Issue*



Bunker Hill Community College

Charlestown, MA – Friday, April 8, Saturday, April 9

Hi Everyone!

As you cope with the bitter cold we're experiencing at the beginning of this semester, think Spring! We can't guarantee the warmth of the weather, but we can guarantee the warmth of your welcome to Bunker Hill Community College for NEMATYC'05.

From the preliminary program in this newsletter, you can see that there are a variety of topics being addressed. You'll probably find several presentations that pique your curiosity, encourage you to try new things in your courses, or entertain you. Moreover, Boston itself has an even wider variety of activities that you can take advantage of while you're here.

Arrangements have been made with two local hotels. The Royal Sonesta Hotel – Boston(Cambridge) and the LaQuinta Inn – Somerville (formerly Taje Inn). (Details inside). Both are within a mile of the College and access to public transportation. So you can stay that extra night and enjoy an early spring Sunday in Boston. Reservations should be made with the individual hotels by March 11. Please mention NEMATYC for Conference rates.

Shirley MacKenzie
Geri Curley
Co-Chairs

Program and Details Inside

**Special Friday Event at the
Boston Museum of Science!
5 pm – 9 pm**

4:30 – 5:00

**Shuttles to Museum of Science
Free Parking if you are driving**

5:00 – 5:30 Welcome

6:30 – 8:00

**Hors D'Oeuvres and Cash Bar in the
d'Arbeloff Suite**

5:30 – 9:00

Museum Exhibits and Programs!

<http://www.mos.org/>



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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Maureen Woolhouse, Chair

At the spring NEMATYC annual meeting the membership will select individuals to serve as Vice-President and Member-at-Large on the NEMATYC Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates:

Vice-President

Andrew Perry

Andrew is currently finishing a one-year term as NEMATYC Vice President. He is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at Springfield College in Massachusetts. Andrew has presented twice at NEMATYC conferences and once at AMATYC.

Steve Zona

Steve is a Professor of Mathematics at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he has taught for the past twenty years. Steve has presented at NEMATYC and was one of the original "dirty dozen" organizers of the Boston AMATYC meeting.

Member-at-Large

Bonnie Wicklund

Bonnie has been teaching mathematics and physics in the Massachusetts Community College system for 26 years. Currently Bonnie serves as the math coordinator for the Academic Support Center at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, Massachusetts. Bonnie served as the co-chairman of the 2004 annual NEMATYC conference.

Javad Moulai

Javad has been teaching all levels of mathematics and physics at Roxbury Community College in Boston for the past twenty years. He is currently participating in the Massachusetts Community College System 100 Percent Mathematics initiative. This project's goal, which is funded by a FIPSE grant, is to increase student success in developmental mathematics at community colleges.

From the Mouths of Babes

Several years ago, my then 3 year old great-nephew was demonstrating his counting skills for family members. He started out: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, then turned to his father and asked "How do I know when to stop?"

Cliff Martin

FROM YOUR NEMATYC PRESIDENT

ELAINE PREVITE



Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a relaxing and re-energizing semester break and are ready to tackle another challenging semester. Theoretically it is the “Spring” semester, although at this writing the weather is somewhat less than balmy: this week temperatures were

hovering at 0°F with wind chills well below zero, and today New England is bracing for a huge storm that may leave us with two feet of snow just hours in advance of the start of the semester’s classes. Spring *cannot* arrive soon enough!!

While Spring promises the renewal and rebirth of the earth, it also brings professional renewal for NEMATYC members with the arrival of our annual conference. NEMATYC 2005 is scheduled for April 8 and 9 at Bunker Hill Community College.

Conference co-chairs Shirley MacKenzie and Geri Curley have done yeomen’s work in preparation for this meeting, and the Friday night event will be an exciting addition to our conference. Please note the conference information can be found on the pages of this newsletter. I invite you to attend this fun and interesting conference and encourage your colleagues to attend as well. Four-year college faculty as well as high school teachers can benefit from involvement with NEMATYC.

And while I’m on the subject of conference attendance, I would also like to ask you to help NEMATYC grow (another allusion to Spring...?). As our current membership, uh, matures, we need to look to the next generation of math faculty to join our organization and eventually take on a leadership role. The NEMATYC board will need several new members in 2006, so consider getting involved!

In an attempt to reach our colleagues in various areas in New England, the NEMATYC board is considering having regional dinner meetings in somewhat the same manner as MAA. If there is sufficient interest in this idea, we may begin these meetings in the Fall.

I would be interested in hearing your feedback about this idea, so please contact me at eprevite@bristol.mass.edu.

Again, have a pleasant and productive semester. See you at the conference in April!

Elaine A. Previte
Bristol Community College

FROM YOUR NORTHEAST AMATYC REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

JACK KEATING



Happy New Year! Spring is hopefully around the corner! Below is some AMATYC news:

1. AMATYC Math Excellence Award – Nominations for this award are now open and nominations close on Tuesday, November 1, 2005. Details can be found on the AMATYC website.
2. Two summer institutes will be offered – The first will be on Developmental Algebra Using a Function Approach. This will be held from June 12-17 in Duck North, Carolina.

The second will be on Teacher Preparation: Exploring Statistical Reasoning and Probability. This will be held from July 7-11 at the Applied Technology Center, Grand Rapids, SC.
3. Our Annual AMATYC Conference will be held in San Diego, November 10-13th.
4. Apply to be a Project ACCESS Fellow. The deadline is July 1, 2005. For more information, please visit www.amatyc.org/projectaccess. Last year’s fellow were a delight to meet and to talk with in Orlando.
5. The AMATYC Review invites manuscripts and reviews. Guidelines can be found at www.amatyc.org/publications/review. Consider contributing to this publication.
6. AMATYC is looking for a publicity director. This person has the role of pursuing AMATYC publication opportunities, overseeing press releases, and maintaining an AMATYC media kit. This is a volunteer position. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Judy Ackerman, our president, at judy.ackerman@montgomerycollege.edu.
7. Finally, when I send out for information for the AMATYC news, please send me some.

Have a great semester!

Jack

Preliminary Program – NEMATYC 2005

Bunker Hill Community College

250 New Rutherford Ave.

Charlestown, MA 02129

FRIDAY – April 8, 2005

2:00 – 4:30	Registration, Refreshments and Exhibits							
2:30 – 3:15	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Tried Methods to Meet Student Needs</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Wall Street Statistics</td> <td style="width: 33%;">A New Instructional Paradigm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3:30 – 4:15</td> <td>Teaching & Learning with Tablet PCs</td> <td>All the Baseball Statistics</td> <td>Math Models, Multiple Reps and Conceptual Understanding</td> </tr> </table>	Tried Methods to Meet Student Needs	Wall Street Statistics	A New Instructional Paradigm	3:30 – 4:15	Teaching & Learning with Tablet PCs	All the Baseball Statistics	Math Models, Multiple Reps and Conceptual Understanding
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4:30 – 5:00	Shuttles to Museum of Science							
5:00 – 5:30	Welcome							
5:30 – 9:00	Museum Exhibits and Programs							
6:30 – 8:00	Hors D'Oeuvres and Cash Bar in the d'Arbeloff Suite, Museum of Science							

SATURDAY – April 9, 2005

8:00 – 11:45	Registration and Exhibits												
8:00 – 9:15	Continental Breakfast												
9:15 – 10:00	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Pythagoras: The First Mathematician</td> <td style="width: 33%;">EXCELlent Statistics</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">The Eureka Experience</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Peer Led Team Learning</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Visit the Exhibits</td> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">(90 minutes)</td> <td rowspan="2" style="text-align: center;">(90 minutes)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 16.5%;">A Historical Tour of Numeration Systems</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Effective Web-Based Tutorials, Homework and Course Management</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Multiple Choice Exams</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Visit the Exhibits</td> </tr> </table>	Pythagoras: The First Mathematician	EXCELlent Statistics	The Eureka Experience	Peer Led Team Learning	Visit the Exhibits		(90 minutes)	(90 minutes)	A Historical Tour of Numeration Systems	Effective Web-Based Tutorials, Homework and Course Management	Multiple Choice Exams	Visit the Exhibits
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10:00 – 10:30													
10:30 – 11:15													
11:45 – 1:15	Lunch at the Royal Sonesta Hotel (Shuttle Service available)												
1:45 – 2:30	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Puzzles, Games and Fun Projects</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Experiences with Online Precalculus</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Ayuh! There is Meaningful Life...</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">The Power of 1</td> <td style="width: 16.5%;">Houghton Mifflin Presentation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2:40 – 3:20</td> <td>Unusual and Creative Teaching Techniques</td> <td>Are We Teaching All the Essentials?</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Puzzles, Games and Fun Projects	Experiences with Online Precalculus	Ayuh! There is Meaningful Life...	The Power of 1	Houghton Mifflin Presentation	2:40 – 3:20	Unusual and Creative Teaching Techniques	Are We Teaching All the Essentials?				
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2:40 – 3:20	Unusual and Creative Teaching Techniques	Are We Teaching All the Essentials?											
3:30 – 4:00	Business Meeting, Elections, and Door Prizes												

LOCAL HOTELS FOR NEMATYC 2005 ATTENDEES

Arrangements have been made with two local hotels. Both are within a mile of the College and access to public transportation. Stay an extra night and enjoy an early spring Sunday in Boston!

Royal Sonesta Hotel – Boston (Cambridge)

\$159 per night + 12.45% tax

All of our 400 luxurious guest rooms offer views of the Charles River, Cambridge or Boston's stunning skyline. Laptops are available on request for in-room use. Fast Internet service provided by Wayport high-speed telecommunications lines. The Museum of Science is located 100 yards from the hotel. Parking is \$19 per night in attached garage.

Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston

Five Cambridge Parkway

Cambridge, MA 02142

Phone: (617) 806-4200 or 800-SONESTA

<http://www.sonesta.com/boston/>

LaQuinta Inn – Somerville

(formerly Taje Inn) **\$105 per night + tax**

Available features include a courtesy 24-hour airport shuttle to/from Logan Airport, complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, free local shuttle to Boston T transportation station,... free parking.

AAA 3 Diamond Rating

La Quinta Inn & Suites Boston

23 Cummings Street

Somerville, MA 02145

Phone: (617) 625-5300

<http://laquinta.com/>

Reservations should be made with the individual hotels by March 11.

Please mention NEMATYC for Conference rates.

Check NEMATYC's website www.nematyc.org for updated conference information, or contact either of the co-chairs:

smackenzie@bhcc.mass.edu (617) 228-2287

gcurley@bhcc.mass.edu (617) 228-2226

DIRECTIONS TO BUNKER HILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

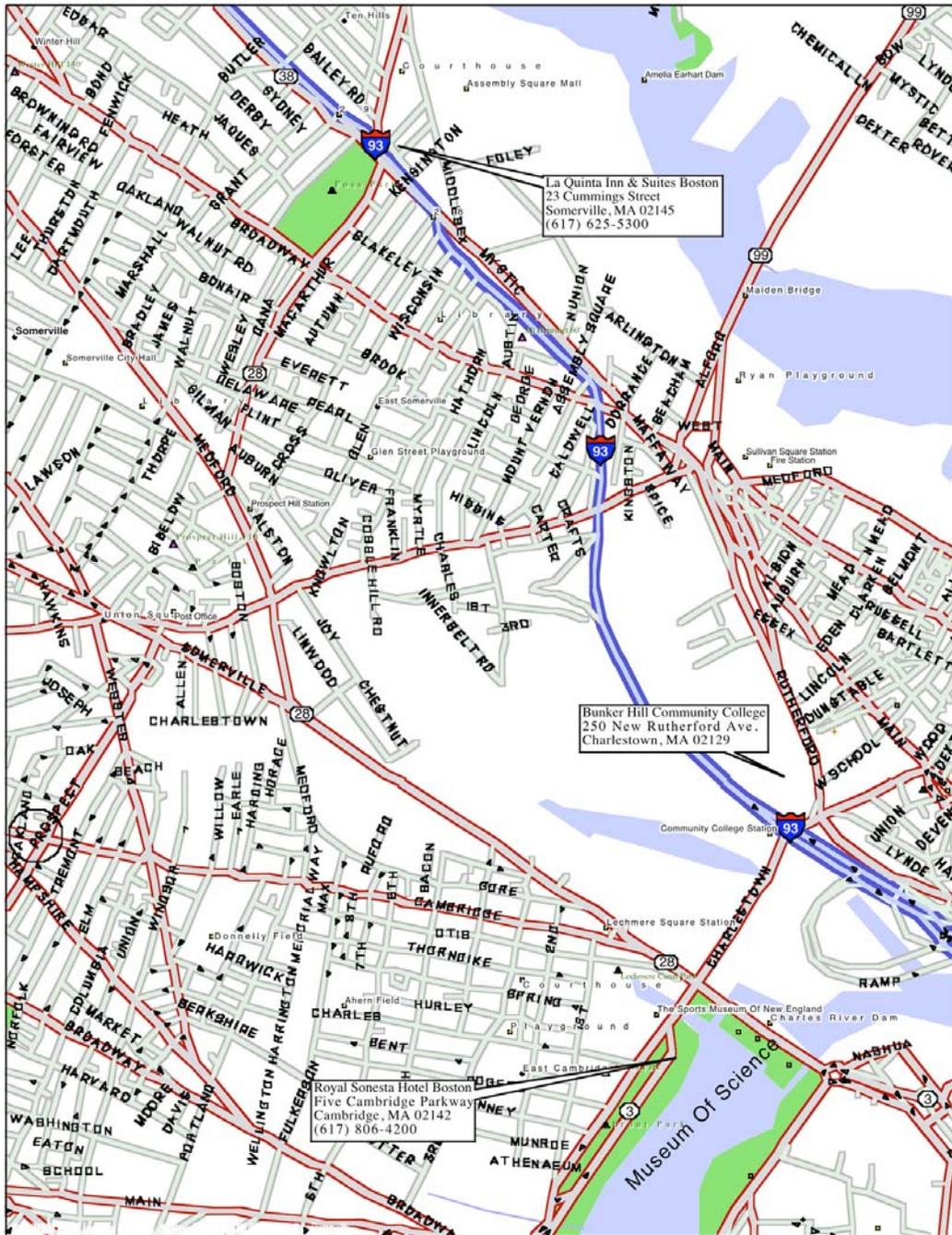
From North and West: (via I-95 and/or I-93) Follow I-95/128 to Exit 37 South (Route I-93 South to Boston). From the North, follow I-93 South to Exit 28. Pass through Sullivan Square and proceed straight onto New Rutherford Avenue. Bunker Hill Community College will be on the right.

From West: (via I-90 Mass. Pike) Follow directions to I-93 North. Pass through South Station tunnel, over the Zakim Bridge and take Exit 28. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Washington Street, At the next light, take another right onto New Rutherford Avenue. Bunker Hill Community College will be on the right.

From the Northeast (via Tobin Bridge and Route 1 South) Coming off the bridge, bear right and follow signs for "Charlestown/Rutherford Avenue". At the traffic light, take a left turn *into the far right lane* onto New Rutherford Avenue that will bring you to Austin Street. Take the U-turn before the traffic light to reverse direction on New Rutherford Avenue (BHCC is visible from the U-turn). Turn right into the Student Parking Lot entrance. At the stop sign, turn right and proceed to the perimeter road.

From South: (via Route 3 North and I-93 North (Southeast Expressway)) Pass through South Station tunnel, over the Zakim Bridge and take Exit 28. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Washington Street, At the next light, take another right onto New Rutherford Avenue. Bunker Hill Community College will be on the right.

BHCC is easily accessible via the "T". The Community College stop on the MBTA Orange Line is at BHCC! Subway map at www.mbta.com.



The Executive Committee met in January at Massasoit CC. From left to right, standing: Carol Hay, Rick Butterworth, Andrew Perry, Maureen Woolhouse, Elaine Previte, Sue Hoy, Lois Martin, Judy Carter, Bonnie Wicklund. Seated left to right: Paul Laverty, Carol Henry, Shirley MacKenzie, Geri Curley. Not shown: Phil Mahler

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Friday 2:30 – 3:15

Tried Methods to Meet Student Needs Dr. Prem Singh, Johnson & Wales University. Teaching has become a very challenging profession. Our classrooms are becoming increasingly diverse in age and background, personal interests, physical and mental abilities. This presentation will discuss tried methods, ranging from the use of technology to cooperative learning to classroom assessment techniques.

Wall Street Statistics: Diversify your Investment Portfolio Dr. Eiki Satake & Dr. Philip Amato, Emerson College. This paper session presents a thorough study of basic statistical methods in investment analysis. The theory of asset allocation along with intuitive probabilistic thinking will be emphasized. We will also discuss the mathematical rationale behind diversification.

A New Instructional Paradigm Rev. Dr. Christian Agunwamba, Bunker Hill Community College. In this paper, we go beyond the usual lists (skills, methods, attitudes, technologies, etc) teachers are asked to acquire. We analyze the various ways the teacher should be helped in the task of teaching difficult mathematics students.

Friday 3:30 – 4:15

Teaching and Learning with Tablet PCs Lois Martin & Kerry Snyder, Massasoit Community College. The presenters received an EAST grant to use Tablet PCs for instruction in mathematics and science classes. Although the grant was written to address teaching and learning of students with disabilities, the benefits to other students and faculty were evident. Learn about partnering the use of a tablet PC with WebCT to create and deliver both traditional and online lessons.

All the Baseball Statistics About the Boston Red Sox That You Ever Wanted to Know Steve Krevisky, Middlesex (CT) Community College. The 2004 World Series win by the Sox complete a cycle of 100 years of Red Sox baseball. In this presentation, we examine the history and statistics of the storied franchise. Various formulas and statistical calculations will be used to examine the legacy of this franchise.

Math Models, Multiple Representations and Conceptual Understanding Dr. Joanne Manville & Yvette Straughter, Bunker Hill Community College. A contributing factor to students' difficulties in mathematics is their belief that math is memorization of formulas and replication of procedures. A modeling approach utilizes methods and materials which contribute to student awareness that mathematical ideas should have meaning and that mathematical procedures are based on underlying relationships.

Saturday 9:15 – 10:45

The Eureka Experience - Instructional Techniques that Encourage It! Alan Tussy, Citrus College. Watch as several of your colleagues participate in an intriguing experiment that explores the relationship between thought and language. Learn about the successive stages that your students go through to assimilate mathematical terms and concepts. You'll leave with some specific instructional techniques that help student better speak, write, and think mathematically using the language of algebra.

Peer Led Team Learning (PLTL) in Calculus I at the University of Maine Jen Tyne, Paula Drewniany, & Sue McGarry, University of Maine. The PLTL Workshop model engages teams of eight to ten students in learning sciences, mathematics and other undergraduate disciplines guided by a peer leader. We will briefly describe our experience creating workshop materials, hiring and training leaders, and implementing PLTL in the classroom. We will include evaluation results to date and plans for the future. Attendees will then participate in a workshop session.

Saturday 9:15 – 10:00

Pythagoras: The First Mathematician Dr. David C. Mello & Dr. Joseph Delaney, Johnson & Wales University. The significant contributions of Pythagoras and the members of his school will be discussed in a historical, philosophical, and mathematical context. His intellectual legacy, and overall impact upon subsequent thinkers such as Plato, Kepler, and Descartes will also be discussed.

Saturday 9:15 – 10:00 - continued

EXCELlent Statistics – Using Excel and Fisheries Biology in the Teaching of Statistics Barry Woods, Unity College. At Unity College statistics courses are taught using *Microsoft Excel* and the fish data collected from nearly Lake Winnecook. In collaboration with the Fisheries Science and Techniques class, both descriptive and inferential statistics are taught using real-world fish data. *Excel* will be used to demonstrate the teaching of statistics in the ongoing environmental study.

Saturday 10:30 – 11:15

A Historical Tour of Numeration Systems Tom Pandolfini and Dr. Joseph Delaney, Johnson & Wales University. Please join us as we tour the development of numeration systems and numerals, over the course of many eras, and through many cultures – an interesting, interdisciplinary topic that demonstrates arithmetic concepts and number sense.

Using Multiple Choice Exams in an Introductory Biostatistics Course Gary R. Tataronis, Mass. College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The speaker will discuss the challenges of using a multiple choice format versus the traditional examination method for assessing student learning in biostatistics. Advantages and disadvantages of both types of testing will be presented.

Effective Web-Based Tutorials, Homework, Testing and Course Management A commercial presentation by Addison-Wesley and Prentice Hall. Addison-Wesley and Prentice Hall will present two web-based resources, MathXL and MyMathLab, which would be of interest to instructors looking to offer easily accessible practice problems and tutorials to enhance both traditional lecture and online courses. Online homework and testing with a robust grade book are also available. Both MathXL and MyMathLab correlate directly with the scope, sequence, and problems in the AW and PH texts.

Saturday 1:45 – 3:15

The Power of 1 in the Developmental Mathematics Classroom Adele Miller, Central Connecticut State University. The unit is the simplest and most universal idea humans have about number, and understanding variety in the unit creates a foundation for understanding whole numbers and builds a bridge for understanding rational numbers. Students' resistance to fraction ideas may arise from being unclear about what the unit is. This workshop will present games and activities which may help students gain a better understanding of the unit and unit fractions so that they can grasp rational number concepts.

A Commercial Presentation of Houghton Mifflin Leonid Tunik, Instructional Technology Specialist

Saturday 1:45 – 2:30

Puzzles, Games and Fun Projects Charles Mazmanian, Johnson & Wales University. Mathematics can be interesting and entertaining to both teachers and students. The puzzles and games are not only fun but educational as well – other than mere drill in fundamentals.

Experiences with an Online Precalculus Course Judy Carter, North Shore Community College. Although in the past I've been a doubter concerning online math courses, I did develop and teach an online precalculus course last fall. Here's what worked, what didn't work, success rate, and outcomes.

Ayuh! There is Meaningful Life After Retirement Gary Getchell, Professor Emeritus, Cape Cod Community College. Gary Getchell is sixty-nine, has been retired from Cape Cod Community College since 2001, and lives full-time in Dresden, Maine. He is Vice-Chairperson of the local school committee, the "Mathematician-in-Residence" at a local middle school, a stand-up comic performing throughout Maine and Massachusetts, has built a bar, and still teaches algebra to Four C's students through television and the internet. In this informative and sometimes zany presentation Gary shares with you his "life-in-retirement".

Saturday 2:40 – 3:20

Unusual and Creative Teaching Techniques Dr. Andrew B. Perry, Springfield College. As a math teacher, I experiment frequently with different teaching techniques, some of them unusual, and some of them arguably eccentric. For example, I've developed a complex math game called "Wheel of Functions", and utilize daily feedback from each student in many of my classes. I will share some of my ideas, and hope audience members will share some of theirs as well.

Are We Teaching All the Essentials? Rev. Dr. Christian Agunwamba, Bunker Hill Community College. In this paper, we present a case for the inclusion of mathematical proofs in community college mathematics curricula.

Mathematics for the Real World



New England Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges 31st Annual Meeting April 8 - 9, 2005

Bunker Hill Community College, 250 New Rutherford Avenue, Charlestown, MA 02129

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM – DEADLINE MARCH 25

Pre-register by March 11 and you'll be eligible to win a valuable gift certificate!

Name _____

Preferred Complete Mailing Address _____

City State Zip

Phone Number _____

e-mail Address _____

Institution _____

Are you a Presenter? Yes No Will you serve as a Presider? Yes No

Attending Friday? Yes No Attending Saturday? Yes No

Registration Fee*: *includes refreshments, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and NEMATYC dues*
**Registration fee is waived for ONE presenter per session.*

\$50 if sent by March 25; \$55 after deadline, and at the door
\$25 for students & adjunct faculty if sent by March 25

Friday: Museum of Science \$40 (includes admission, parking or shuttle from BHCC, museum programs, social hour with hors d'oeuvres, and star-viewing (weather permitting))

Mail to
Shirley MacKenzie
Bunker Hill CC
250 New Rutherford Ave.
Charlestown, MA 02129

Saturday Luncheon Choice: ___ **Herb Grilled Chicken** ___ **Penne Pasta with Pesto**

Registration \$ _____ (\$50 or \$25)

Friday Social \$ _____ (\$40)

Make checks payable to
NEMATYC 2005

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ Note the Conference Refund Policy on page 10.

PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORMS BY FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Conference Refund Policy: A refund of 100% of your advanced registration fees less the dues amount will be given upon receipt of a written request postmarked no later than two weeks prior to the conference. A 50% refund less the dues amount will be given if a written request is postmarked within the two weeks prior to the conference. A refund for the Friday night dinner will be given dependent upon restaurant policy. No refunds for non-attendance will be given for requests postmarked after the date of the conference. All request should be sent to the NEMATYC Conference Chairperson. Refunds will be processed approximately four to six weeks after the conference.

Student Math League Team Leads the Northeast! The Massasoit Community College AMATYC Student Math League Team ranked **FIRST** in the Northeast Region in Round One competitions! Congratulations to team moderator Lois Martin and the Massasoit students!

AMATYC Student Mathematics League,
2004-2005
Team Standings, Round One,
Northeast Region

1	Massasoit CC	MA	98.0
2	Borough of Manhattan CC	NY	92.0
3	Monroe CC	NY	86.5
4	Onondaga CC	NY	83.0
5	Queensborough CC	NY	79.0
6	Westchester CC	NY	77.0
7	Southern Maine CC	ME	69.0
8	Suffolk County CC	NY	49.0
9	Bronx CC of the CUNY	NY	27.0
10	Manchester CC	CT	26.5
11	Bristol CC	MA	19.0
12	Nassau CC	NY	18.5

Individual Standings, Round One,
Northeast Region

1	Alexei Popov	Massasoit CC	MA	27.5
2	Hung Neuyen	Westchester CC	NY	26.0
3	Ronald Kasper	Monroe CC	NY	24.5
4	Nurzhas Makishev	Southern Maine CC	ME	24.0
5	Keith Rossman	Massasoit CC	MA	23.5
6	Zhen Yuan Zhou	Borough of Manhattan CC	NY	21.5
7	Loan Tran	Borough of Manhattan CC	NY	21.0
	Jimmy Zotos	Queensborough CC	NY	21.0
9	Di Luo	Queensborough CC	NY	20.0
10	Jeff Girard	Onondaga CC	NY	19.5
	Jason R. Englert	Westchester CC	NY	19.5
	Issac Kao	Massasoit CC	MA	19.5
	Chi Keong Chan	Borough of Manhattan CC	NY	19.5
14	Randy Roth	Onondaga CC	NY	19.0
	Jeremy Clark	Onondaga CC	NY	19.0

Join NEMATYC!

Can't attend the conference? We hope you'll support NEMATYC by renewing your membership. Annual dues are \$5 dollars.

Please complete and return with a check for \$5 to Lois Martin, NEMATYC Treasurer, 25 Lydon Lane, Kingston, MA 02364

Name _____

Preferred Complete _____
Mailing Address _____

_____ City State Zip

Phone Number _____

e-mail Address _____

Institution _____

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

Report from the Ranks of the Retired

All NEMATYC long-timers know Gary Getchell. Gary has presented regular and plenary sessions at NEMATYC meetings for ages. In particular Gary keynoted the 1995 meeting. Gary retired from long service at Cape Cod Community College a few years ago, but his professional activity may be of interest.

Gary and his wife Judy are in their third year living on their family farm in Dresden, Maine. They have 31 acres, can't see another house, overlook the Kennebec river, and experience "wicked good" sunsets from their hilltop home.

Gary is still teaching Intermediate Algebra via a telecourse at CCCC and communicates with his students each semester and during the summer via the Internet. This is the fifth year the course has been scheduled. Gary says "I think that the Internet has allowed me to be more aware of the individual issues each of my students has with math more than was ever possible with my face-to-face classes. However, I do miss the personal instantaneous interaction I had with students in my "live" classes."

Gary is the Vice-Chairperson of the Dresden, Maine School Committee, and through a Title One grant, the official "Mathematician-in-Residence" at the Hallowell/Farmingdale Middle School where he works with both math faculty and students in a mentoring capacity.

Gary and Judy have built a two-story barn on their property; the second floor has a television studio/classroom/office. Gary is going to develop additional math videos on DVD that cover common basic math and algebra areas that always need remediation. Additionally, he plans to offer a course in math methods and materials for area K-12 educators where they can receive their instruction in Gary's classroom and construct some of their materials in his woodshop. Initial inquiries have shown considerable interest in this activity. Very, very few methods and materials courses are offered as stand-alone classes at the college-level in Maine for future math educators.

Gary says "Please give my best to everyone. I may be retired but ... as I hope you realize ... I'm far from being tired".

"With the aid of capable friends and relatives I have built (see the photo of Gary) a large, two-story barn that houses a woodshop on the ground floor and an office/television studio/classroom on the second. The summer of 2005 will find me developing math videos on DVD that cover common basic math and algebra areas that always need remediation. Additionally, I shall be offering a course in math methods and materials for area K-12 educators where they can receive their instruction in my upstairs classroom and construct some of their materials in my downstairs woodshop. Initial inquiries have shown considerable interest in this activity. Very few methods and materials courses are offered as stand-alone classes at the college-level in Maine for future math educators."



Answers to the quiz that was in the fall issue.

1. The home office of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the American Statistical Association (ASA), and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) are in Washington, D.C. or a suburb thereof: the American Mathematical Society is in Providence!
2. MathFest is the MAA's annual summer meeting. The next one is in Albuquerque, August 4-6, 2005
3. The first, and only, AMATYC office has been in Memphis, hosted at Southwest Tennessee Community College, since 1993.
4. The National Science Foundation is located in Arlington, VA.
5. $\sqrt{\frac{1971755000 - \sqrt{8884794895}}{199771000}} \neq \pi$. If $\sqrt{\frac{A - \sqrt{B}}{C}} = \pi$, where A, B, C represent the constants above, we can easily establish that $C^2\pi^4 - 2AC\pi^2 + (A^2 - B) = 0$, which means π would be a solution to $C^2x^4 - 2ACx^2 + (A^2 - B) = 0$. However in 1882 it was proved by Lindeman that π is transcendental, which means it is not algebraic, and cannot be a solution to such a polynomial. However, you might try comparing the value of the radical to π .
6. The statement that to find the 256,488th hexadecimal digit of π you must first calculate all the digits which precede it is false. Though it was thought for millennia that to find the n 'th digit of an irrational like π would require finding the previous $n-1$ digits, a decade old area of mathematics which uses computer programs to find relations between long chains of real numbers has found an algorithm to find any arbitrary hexadecimal digit in the expansion of π . Search on "experimental mathematics borwein" on the Internet to pursue, if this interests you. This result just touches the tip of the iceberg of an interesting new area of mathematics.

NEMATYC NEWSLETTER
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Bunker Hill Community College
Charlestown, MA

Friday and Saturday, April 8, 9, 2005

Program, registration, and directions are in this newsletter.

Also, check www.nematyc.org for updates.

JOIN NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC? We hope you'll join! See page 10.
Better yet, attend the conference this year! You'll have a great time.