



NEMATYC NEWS

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Vol 13, No 1

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

Fall, 2004

From the President

Elaine Previte



Happy New Year!

It may sound strange to hear that exclamation in September but don't we, as educators, feel that September rings in a new year? The fall semester brings the promise of a productive academic year: new students, new courses, new textbooks and for some, a new teaching environment. For those of us beginning at a new college, this academic year is one of transitions: learning about the culture of a new institution, learning about the courses and programs there, and working with a new set of colleagues. It all presents an exhilarating new phase in one's career. I wish much success and happiness to all who find themselves in a similar situation. And those of you who are continuing in your institutions, I would hope this year finds you with renewed energy and creativity as you return to familiar environs. Remember: even though you have taught these courses a dozen times (or is it a googol times?) this semester's experience will be the first for your students. Try to infuse your classes with the same energy as those of us beginning anew.

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From Your AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President

Jack Keating



Dear Colleagues:

Welcome back to the fall semester!

1. Nominations for AMATYC office are due by **February 1, 2005.**

It has been my great pleasure to have served as your Northeast Regional Vice President for almost six years. I will be retiring from this position after my third term and hope many of you will consider a run for this wonderful position.

2. Our spring board meeting in Memphis was most productive as usual.
 - a. We have a new AMATYC logo. I bet you might see it if you join us in Orlando from November 18-21 for our annual conference.
 - b. We established the AMATYC foundation as an entity of our organization. Please consider when you renew your annual dues – a donation to the foundation would be deeply appreciated. Our own AMATYC past-president, Phil Mahler is the chair.
 - c. We passed a motion to recommend to the delegate assembly a dues increase. Your board is very thrifty, but costs keep going up.

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Mathematics for the Real World



Bunker Hill Community College

Charlestown, MA — April 8-9, 2005

PROPOSAL DEADLINE—Wednesday, January 5, 2005

NEMATYC'05



Please come to Boston in the springtime

No, we're not going to serenade you, or ask you to participate in a karaoke. But we do want you to come to Boston for the second weekend of April to avail yourself of some valuable professional enrichment and some spectacular personal recreation and entertainment.



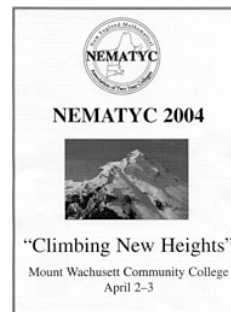
Whether you prefer theater, music, art, historical sites, shopping, fine dining, or gazing at the city skyline, we have it. Just look at a tiny list of what's available that weekend – The Lion King, Phantom of the Opera, concerts of Mendelssohn or Mozart, the National Acrobats of Taiwan, French Royal furniture at the Museum of Fine Arts, the Museum of Science or the Bruins at the Fleet-Center. And here's another incentive– you'll already be in Boston to take in the 85th Annual Convention of the AACC at the Hynes Convention Center. You have an opportunity to return to your campuses refreshed both professionally and personally!

Bunker Hill Community College is hosting NEMATYC'05. Come and share your strategies, ex-

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NEMATYC'04

NEMATYC 2004 was held at Mt. Wachusett Community College on Friday and Saturday, April 2, 3, 2004. The theme was "Climbing New Heights". The conference co-chairs were **Bonnie Wicklund** and **Paul Laverty**, both of Mt. Wachusett CC.



This was the 30th annual meeting since NEMATYC was formed in 1974, and the 32nd annual meeting of the organization, originally called MMATYC.

Besides a great program other events enjoyed by the participants included the following.

Friday Banquet: All the Friday activities were held at the Wachusett Village Inn in Westminster. Historians Tom and Brenda Malloy presented a well-received slide presentation of "Murder in Massachusetts - Written in Stone", which presented and expanded upon the fact that in many cases the gravestone epitaphs that document the cause of death as murder also noted the perpetrator(s) of

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AMATYC Project ACCESS Fellow is NEMATYC Member

Project ACCESS is a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college faculty, funded by the *ExxonMobil* Foundation. ACCESS stands for Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, Service. 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. *Project ACCESS* is jointly sponsored by AMATYC and The Mathematical Association of America.

A NEMATYC member from North Shore Community College, **Anne O'Shea**, has been awarded a Project ACCESS fellowship - she's a member of the first cohort. Anne's first semester at NSCC was spring 2004. She attended the spring NEMATYC conference at "the Mount."

Fellows participating in Project ACCESS will gain knowledge of the culture and mission of the

two-year college and its students, acquire familiarity with the scholarship of teaching, commit to continued growth in mathematics, and participate actively in professional societies.

Fellows will attend two consecutive AMATYC national meetings where they will participate in a program developed particularly for new faculty, as well as in regular conference activities. In the intervening year, Fellows will attend an MAA Section meeting near their home institution where they will participate in Section NEXt activities as well as the regular meeting.



Anne O'Shea
North Shore
Community College

MASSASOIT MATH TEAM WINS NORTHEAST TITLE

In 1997 when Massasoit Community College students first competed in the Student Mathematics League Competition sponsored by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC), the team consisted of one member and finished in last place in the country. During the 2003-2004 academic year, twenty Massasoit students competed, and its team finished 32nd in the country and first in AMATYC's Northeast Region. This was the first time since 1995-1996, when Cape Cod Community College won, that a college outside of New York captured the Northeast title.

Students compete individually on tests administered twice a year on the local campuses, and the team score consists of the total of the top five individual scores. In addition to capturing the Northeast title, Massasoit students Mark Lowell and Chris Canavan were ranked first and third respectively in the individual Northeast competition. Newcomer

Alexei Popov set a new Massasoit record for an individual score.

Math Team Advisor, Professor **Lois Martin** of the Massasoit Mathematics faculty, will accept awards for the team at AMATYC's conference in Orlando in November.



The Winning Massasoit Math Team with AMATYC Northeast Vice President **Jack Keating** and Massasoit Professor of Mathematics, and Team Advisor, **Lois Martin**: From left to right: Prof. Keating, Steven Manning, Alexei Popov, Andrew Higgs, Mark Lowell, Chris Canavan, Daniel Higgs, Barry Gutting, Margaret Bennett, Keith Rossman, Prof. Martin, Beth Cassidy.

From the President - *continued*

One way of revitalizing your classes is by learning of new pedagogies from our colleagues. The best way to do this is by attending national professional conferences. While there, you can share ideas with hundreds of our fellow mathematicians from all over the country. And of course, our own AMATYC is the sole professional organization dedicated to the teaching of mathematics for the first two years of college. This year's conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, from November 18 to 21. The conference promises to be most beneficial, with over 130 sessions, keynote speakers, publishers' exhibits and, of course, the Mouse. For the first time in my recollection, the conference schedule has been rearranged so we may spend a half-day discussing the intricacies of partial differential equations and homomorphisms with Mickey, Goofy and the gang.

If you can't make it to Orlando (and this is understandable given the state of professional development funding), then consider attending the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in New England's conference in Providence, October 21-23, (see page 5 for more details). Our counterparts at ATMNE (the local NCTM affiliate) have devoted a number of sessions to the content and pedagogical issues we share in grades 13-16. Please consider making your way to the Renaissance City for this wonderful event!

And for those of you who will be teaching math courses for Elementary Education or Early Childhood Education, why not consider attending the workshops sponsored by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education? These will be held at the UMass collaborative Services Site in Shrewsbury, MA on October 1, 22 and November 5, from 8:30 am to 3 pm. It is hoped you will pick up some valuable teaching tidbits at these day-long workshops.

Whichever professional development choices you make (and don't forget our own NEMATYC conference at Bunker Hill CC next April). I wish you a most productive and successful semester!

Elaine



The beautiful NEMATYC'05 logo is courtesy of **Courtney McGlynn**, Professor, Communication Design Department, Bunker Hill Community College

From Your AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President - *continued*

3. Our annual conference to be held November 18-21st in Orlando at the Renaissance Orlando Resort will be a smash. Remember it is our annual time to refresh, renew and have a very productive time along with the great happenings in one of the world's greatest travel destinations. Since we want all members to enjoy Orlando, this year our Friday sessions will begin with regional meetings in which I will personally serve you breakfast. Followed by wonderful morning sessions and workshops, we will adjourn early afternoon so all can enjoy this area. Please, when you get home, email as to how you liked this schedule change. Thursday we will have a special symposium conducted by Joan Garfield to enhance the teaching of statistics and a themed session called "Mathematical Applications in Biotechnology, and Placement & Assessment. A keynote address by Yolanda T. Moses will present, "Building Bridges and Changing Lives: The Role of the Community Colleges." Remember Saturday morning's breakfast gathering where Brian Winkel will discuss, "Passing the Grade as a Student Consultant." Regarding the very important need for all attendees to stay in the AMATYC room reserve block at the conference, please read the column entitled, "Hotel Rooms and the Conference" on page 3 in the August 2004 edition of our AMATYC News. The deadline for the discount registration in Orlando is September 30, 2004.
4. Nominations for the Teaching Excellence Award are due by December 9, 2004.
5. Please encourage a colleague to become a member of AMATYC and if your college is not an institutional member, please encourage them to become one.

Thank you and have a great fall semester or quarter.

Jack

ATMNE You are invited to join fellow educators from pre-kindergarten through college in Providence, RI, October 21-23, 2004 in the “**MatRIx for Success**”. Choose from over 170 sessions, workshops, and mini-courses. Speakers from California to Maine, and from Australia to Iceland are here for this year’s Annual Conference of the Association of Teachers of Mathematics (ATMNE) in New England.



Consider

- Uncovering the mathematics in *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, and *Digital Fortress*. **Richard Brown**, Dan Brown’s dad and a noted mathematics teacher and author himself, will talk about the mathematics in Dan's blockbuster bestsellers.
- Participating in the Conference within the Conference. Observe classes of elementary, middle, and high school students as they use standards-based programs. Watch, try, and discuss!
- Attending sessions on issues in mathematics education with current NCTM President **Cathy Seeley**, Past President **Glenda Lappan**, and Executive Director **James Rubillo**.
- Exploring mathematics with technology, using the *Geometer’s Sketchpad* and Texas Instruments calculators.
- Connecting literacy and mathematics, differentiated learning and excellence for all.
- Meeting **Greg Tang**, author of *The Grapes of Math*, *The Best of Times*, and other best-selling rhyming math riddle books, during his session and his book signing.
- Decoding *NCLB* and mandated assessments.
- Discussing changes to the Math SAT.

Collaborate with fellow mathematics educators at these and other exciting events! For a schedule of sessions and a registration form, go to www.atmne.org.

NEMATYC’05 continued

periences, perspectives, hopes and disappointments with colleagues from throughout New England. The theme of the Conference is Mathematics for the Real World. Don’t be alarmed – it’s not only about “applied” math. We live and teach in many different “real worlds” – the world of underprepared students, the world of very well-prepared students often whose first language is not English, the world of Web courses and wireless communication, the world of shrinking state support and increasing calls for accountability. Come to share or to learn how mathematics fits into those real worlds in which *you* live and teach.

Shirley MacKenzie
Geri Curley, Co-Chairs



NEMATYC’04 continued

the crime, thus ensuring that those responsible for such a horrific act would have their names literally written in stone. At the banquet the long service to NEMATYC of **John Jacobs** was recognized; John retired at the end of the spring 2004 semester.

Saturday Lunch

Saturday's luncheon speaker was **Herb Gross**, founder of NYSMATYC, NEMATYC and AMATYC! Herb presented a talk entitled “The Future Never Was What It Used To Be”. Herb's recent retirement from Bunker Hill CC was noted, and his 75th birthday (on Friday) was celebrated with cake and good cheer. As Herb would say "A good time was had by all".

JOIN NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC? Join by sending the \$5.00 annual membership fee, payable to NEMATYC, to Lois Martin, NEMATYC Treasurer, Massasoit Community College, One Massasoit Boulevard, Brockton, MA 02402

Join AMATYC, at www.amatyc.org, click on “Join AMATYC”.

NEMATYC 2004 at Mt. Wachusett Community College, Gardner, MA



Cochairs **Paul Lavery** and **Bonnie Wicklund**, both of Mt. Wachusett CC, welcome everyone and introduce NEMATYC President **Maureen Woolhouse**.



President **Maureen Woolhouse** presents a Powerpoint presentation on AMATYC's project to update its *Cross-roads* standards document of 1995.



Herb Gross, founding President of NYSMATYC, NEMATYC, AMATYC, addressed the group on "The Future Never Was What it Used to Be".



President Woolhouse presents a plaque to **Roberta Kieronski** denoting NEMATYC's thanks for her 3 year service as President of NEMATYC, service as Past-President, obtaining tax-free organization status for NEMATYC, and so many other things.

From the Editor

This is my first issue as your new NEMATYC newsletter editor. John Jacobs handled this task more than admirably for years, and the gratitude of NEMATYC for his service was demonstrated at the Mt. Wachusett conference last April, and is repeated here: Thank you John! Besides this job, John hosted NEMATYC at Mass Bay CC twice during his long and fruitful career. We wish him and his wife Gina all the best in Jake's well-deserved retirement.

As for me, your input will always be appreciated, as well as news from your campus, short articles, news of general interest to our NEMATYC readers...

Phil

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QUIZ

Quiz rules: You may use any source you like (open book!). You may use a calculator. Send your answers to the newsletter editor. The first perfect set of responses will receive a 30-day supply of Nature's Own Vitamin e (see below). Answers will be in the Spring Issue.

- The home office of the following are in Washington, D.C. or a suburb thereof:
A. American Mathematical Society
B. American Statistical Association
a. A, C b. All of them c. A, C, D d. B, C, D e. None of them
C. Mathematical Association of America
D. National Council of Teachers of Mathematics
- MathFest means
a. AMATYC's symposium for Orlando
b. The joint annual meeting of the AMS and the MAA
c. The opening ceremony at the annual NCTM meeting.
d. MAA's annual summer meeting
e. None of these
- AMATYC's home office was in Washington, D.C. before it was moved to Memphis to save money.
a. True b. False
- The National Science Foundation is located in
a. Arlington, VA b. Boston, MA c. Gaithersburg, MD d. Washington, DC
- $\sqrt{\frac{1971755000 - \sqrt{8884794895}}{199771000}}$ is the exact value of π . How do you know your answer is correct?
a. True b. False c. This is an open question
- To find the 256,488th hexadecimal digit of π you must first calculate all the digits which precede it.
a. True b. False c. This is an open question

Professional Conferences

AMATYC Annual Conference

- Orlando, Florida
November 18-21, 2004

ATMNE Conference

- October 21-23, 2004
Providence, RI

NCTM Conference

- April 7-9, 2005
Anaheim, CA

NCTM Eastern Regional Conference

- October 6-8, 2005
Hartford, CT

NEMATYC

- April 8,9, 2005
Bunker Hill CC, Charlestown, MA

NE-MAA

- November 19-20, 2004
Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA

Did you know that the NEMATYC web site is at www.NEMATYC.org, and maintains lots of good information about your organization?



Other places you want to visit.

AMATYC	www.AMATYC.org
NEMATYC	www.NEMATYC.org
NCTM	www.NCTM.org
MAA	www.MAA.org
ASA	www.AMSTAT.org
ATMNE	www.ATMNE.org



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Bunker Hill Community College
Charlestown, MA

Friday and Saturday, April 8, 9, 2005

Program, registration, and directions will be in the spring 2005 issue
of this newsletter.

JOIN NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC? Join by sending the \$5.00 annual membership fee,
payable to NEMATYC, to Lois Martin, NEMATYC Treasurer, Massasoit Commu-
nity College, One Massasoit Boulevard, Brockton, MA 02402

A CALL FOR



PRESENTERS

Mathematics for the Real World

Bunker Hill Community College, Charlestown, MA—April 8-9, 2005

NEMATYC is looking for colleagues who are willing to share their strategies, experiences, perspectives, direct hits (and near misses) with eager listeners from throughout New England.

SUGGESTED THEMES Teaching with applications, assessing student learning outcomes, real-world collaborations, teaching mathematics with distance learning technologies, reaching underprepared students, challenging advanced level students including ESL students—and any other topic you feel is germane.

PRESENTER(S) *(Please Note: The registration fee for ONE presenter per presentation will be waived)*

CONTACT INFORMATION *(If home address and telephone are preferred, please list those as well)*

College or affiliation _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Email _____

BEST DESCRIPTION OF SESSION

workshop _____ computer workshop _____ panel discussion _____

seminar _____ poster session _____ focus group _____

LENGTH OF SESSION

45 Minutes _____ 90 Minutes _____

TIME PREFERENCE

Friday PM _____ Saturday AM _____ Saturday PM _____ No Preference _____

SESSION TITLE

ABSTRACT

EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY NEEDS

PROPOSAL DEADLINE—JANUARY 5, 2005

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SEND PROPOSALS BY JANUARY 5, 2005

NEMATYC is looking for colleagues who are willing to share their strategies, experiences, perspectives, direct hits (and near misses) with eager listeners from throughout New England.

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS PREFERRED smackenzie@bhcc.mass.edu

FILL OUT the form 'A Call for Presenters' and send a short (25-50 word) abstract. Feel free to attach any additional supporting information. Indicate your day preference, length of session (45 or 90 minutes) and equipment needs. Include your phone number, college address and email. One presenter for each session will be given a free registration.

SHIRLEY MACKENZIE 617-228-2287 SMACKENZIE@BHCC.MASS.EDU



Mathematics for the Real World

Bunker Hill Community College
Charlestown, MA

APRIL 8-9, 2005

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