

NEMATYC NEWS

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



Vol 14, No 1

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

Fall, 2005

From the President

Elaine Previte

Ch- ch- ch- changes...

Welcome back!

September is a time of changes. Days become shorter. The color burst of summer flowers changes to an autumnal explosion of color of a different sort - deeper, richer and the harbinger of the winter to come. And we, as faculty, mark the transition from a (relatively) carefree summer lifestyle to the hour-by-hour, minute-by-minute schedule that is part and parcel of the fall semester.

How have you changed during the past year? We all have gone through some changes in our personal lives - births and deaths, marriages and divorces, pounds lost and pounds gained.

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From Your AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President

Jack Keating

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to thank all of you who have helped me serve as the Northeast AMATYC Vice President for the last 6 years. It has been a tremendous experience. As I retire from my formal AMATYC experience which started back in the 1980's when I met Helene and Sister Sparkman in a broken elevator at the AMATYC Conference in Calgary. I am so grateful for the "true friends" I've made from all over the country.

I'm looking forward to attending many more AMATYC Conferences and am thoroughly going to enjoy "net working" and session attendance.



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Announcement & Call for Presenters



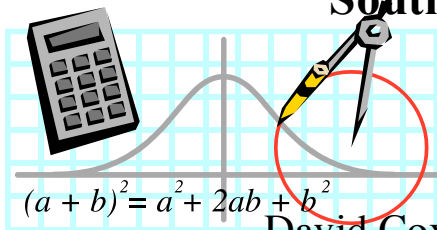
NEMATYC 2006 Building A Better Math Class

Southern New Hampshire University

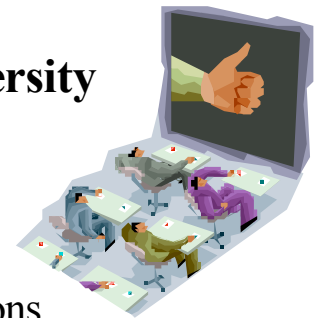
Manchester, NH

Friday and Saturday

April 21 – 22, 2006



David Cox, Alec Ingraham, Co-Chairpersons



 **Call for Presenters for NEMATYC 2006 ENCLOSED**

Also see the web site www.NEMATYC.org

NEMATYC'06

Conference Chair's Column

Greetings from the Granite State! We are busy preparing the food, fun, and facilities for the Spring 2006 conference, "Building A Better Math Class." We need YOU to help make this a conference to remember by bringing your best ideas, or simply bringing yourself, to Manchester on the weekend of April 21/22, 2006.

Please consider giving a talk! You will find a call for presenters in this newsletter.

The title is in reference to the curriculum work being done in Massachusetts, but is still broad enough to encompass about anything math related.

The deadline for presenter proposals is January 6, 2006, after the holidays to give people extra time if they need it. Have a fabulous fall term.

David Cox
Co-Chair

Alec Ingraham
Co-Chair



David Cox and Alec Ingraham, Conference Cochairs

AMATYC Project ACCESS 2005

As extensively noted elsewhere in this newsletter, Anne O'Shea of North Shore CC was an AMATYC Project ACCESS fellow last year. Massachusetts has two more Project ACCESS fellows this year, Marianne Rosato of Massasoit CC and Curtis Mitchell of Greenfield CC.

Marianne Rosato heard about Project ACCESS originally through her



officemate, Jack Keating, (AMATYC Regional Vice President), then from her Massasoit colleague Lois Martin, (NEMATYC Treasurer). She has been teaching full time at Massasoit since January, 2004 but taught part time there since 1989. She left a high school teaching position to join us full-time at a community college.

Through this project she hopes to meet and share ideas with many people from across the country who are in a similar position as she is but with varied backgrounds. She reports that "we have been sharing our biographies with the other Project ACCESS fellows and they certainly are from very varied backgrounds. I think the network formed through this project will increase enthusiasm and lead to much innovation in the classroom".

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AMATYC 2004 Project ACCESS Fellow is NEMATYC Member

Project ACCESS is a mentoring and professional development initiative for new 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**, was a member of the first Project ACCESS cohort. Anne's first semester at NSCC was spring 2004.

Fellows participating in Project ACCESS 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.

The editor asked Anne about her experience at least year's ACCESS program, which was the project's first year.

Q: What activities or presentations did you like most in the ACCESS program in Orlando?

A: I thought the activity sharing session was very useful. Each ACCESS fellow brought a brief activity that he/she uses in class. Each fellow made copies for all of the other fellows and we were able to bring home over 20 great ideas to use in our classes. What I have also found very beneficial is the on-going interaction that continues via email with all of the fellows. I have met some wonderful teachers whose opinions I have sought out many times this year. I feel really lucky to have such a wonderful resource.

Q: What have you been doing since the ACCESS program that is related to your experience there?

A: I incorporated an online homework program into my curriculum for Precalculus and so far, have found success with it.

Q: Did you get to some of the AMATYC conference itself, in Orlando? If so, did you like it?

A: Yes I was able to get to the conference also. I thought that the AMATYC conference was one of the



Anne O'Shea and other ACCESS fellows at AMATYC Orlando, November 2004

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

best math conferences that I have ever been to. Both the conference itself and the ACCESS activities. I think that it is extremely helpful when you leave a conference with material that you can actually use the week you get back!

Q: Will you be going to the AMATYC conference in San Diego and participating in ACCESS there?

A: Yes and Yes. Part of the commitment to Project ACCESS is attending two national conferences. This year we will have both activities planned with other ACCESS fellows as well as some free time to attend the regular sessions of the conference.

Q: Overall, would you recommend ACCESS to a new faculty member?

A: I have recommended ACCESS to other new faculty members. I have received emails from other new instructors who saw my name on the AMATYC website. I highly recommended it. Those involved in the planning and coordinating have done a wonderful job. It is amazing to me that this past year was the first year of the program.

Q: Overall, would you recommend the AMATYC conference to a colleague?

A: Yes, most definitely!!

From the President – continued from page 1

But what of our teaching? Will we be using our tried and true notes now yellow with age? Or are we trying innovative classroom techniques, or techniques not bound to the classroom? Have we investigated new ways to try to reach our students, including on-line or hybrid courses, teaching with new technology such as tablet PCs or Wacom tablets, or using any of the high-tech support services offered to us by our textbook publishers? September is the time to begin examining how we teach and, of course, what we teach.

Are we keeping up with state frameworks and national standards? Are we knowledgeable about the reform movements that continue to make their way through our professional organizations?

My hope is that we, as NEMATYC members, keep change a permanent feature in our professional lives. NEMATYC and AMATYC provide the perfect environment for us to keep apprised of all these changes and, more importantly, how to implement them in our classrooms. Don't be frustrated by all there is for us to accomplish - just take "little bites of the apple," to quote a friend, to try to make major changes in our lives.

I hope the fall finds you open to making some small changes in your teaching - small changes that will lead to large changes in your students' learning.

Have a wonderful semester!

Elaine

The average classroom teacher wants a book that's up to date, but not so innovative that you have to throw away last year's lecture notes.

Herb Gross, Bunker Hill CC Emeritus,
AMATYC Founding President

From Your AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President – continued from page 1

Now for present AMATYC news.

Our Annual Conference (the 31st) will be in San Diego from November 10th – 13th. This, as usual, promises to be a smashing success.

Ron Graham will be our Thursday opening speaker and

his topic will be "*The Mathematics of Juggling*".

Millie Johnson will be our Saturday breakfast speaker and her topic is "*Using Mathematics to Understand What Bees Are Buzzing About*". Sounds very interesting.

Keith Devlin is a featured speaker and his topic will be "*Calculating Animals*".

John Martin is another featured speaker and his topic is "*The Cycloid: Helen of Geometry*".

The program is chuck full of sessions that should wet all appetites.

San Diego is a fantastic city to visit – The air fares are low and the climate is great.

I will again host a Regional Breakfast on Friday Nov. 11th (Veteran's Day) at 7:30 a.m. Last years Regional Breakfast addition was wonderful.

Our AMATYC FOUNDATION thanks all who have generously donated. A partial list was in the August 2005 news.

AMATYC was awarded an NSF grant for Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum. This project supports faculty of all disciplines to integrate mathematics and quantitative reasoning into their courses. Christie Gilliland our new Vice President can give you any information about this project.

Her e-mail address is: cgillila@greenriver.edu

Please plan to attend Crossroads Events at our conference and access it on line. Remember in "Cinci" we will have the unveiling.

The ASA/AMATYC Joint Committee received a grant to offer a workshop entitled "*Preparation of Two-Year College Mathematics*". The workshop will be offered in San Diego on November 8th & 9th prior to the AMATYC Conference. Our own Committee Chair Brian Smith (Quebec prov) has information. E-mail address is brian.smith@mcgill.ca

Nominations for the 2006 Mathematics Excellence Award must be received by November 1, 2005.

Contact our own Phil Mahler for information.

mahlerp@middlesex.mass.edu

Jack

From a student question at Massasoit CC: $x - 1$ and $-1 + x$ represent the same expression. So, form the conjugate of each, and multiply each by its own conjugate. Does the result represent the same expression?

Lois Martin

NEMATYC's history is maintained online. Follow the web page, <http://www.nematyc.org>, and select the History link. The text below was recently added – it describes the early days of NEMATYC's precursor, the Massachusetts Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges, MMATYC.

Musings and Memories of MMATYC

It was about 1967 or 1968 when the Massachusetts Community College system had grown from one, Berkshire, to six or seven when some one at the state level thought it would be a red hot idea if every one in the system met for a day to share. So our whole faculty boarded a bus and drove to Quinsigamond C.C. in Worcester where they put the English, Math, History etc. people in individual rooms and said talk. Actually one of the better things to ever come from above.

It turned into a commiseration, a lot of good people floundering to do the right thing. On the way home to Pittsfield I reflected on the New York State organization of two year colleges, for I had taught at Monroe High School in Rochester N.Y. before returning to Massachusetts to teach at BCC in 1965. "We needed something like that here", I mused and decided to do something.

My colleague Amy West and I wrote a letter to every one teaching mathematics in the community college system at the time and announced that there would be an organizational meeting to be held and that all interested parties should attend. For the life of me I can not remember where that meeting was held but if I was to guess it was at Bristol CC, for I might have made a few phone calls and Joan McGowen was at Bristol. She was a driving force from the get go.

Because I had convened the meeting I was chosen President pro tem of MATYC, an organization that

Frank Deane, Professor of Mathematics Emeritus
Berkshire Community College
2005



NEMATYC HISTORY

was in the delivery room. MMATYC was born at the first annual meeting which I believe was held in the Red Lobster Motel that spans the Mass Pike near Newton MA. At that point I went from pro tem to president and we were off and running—MMATYC was launched.

Herb Gross moved back to Massachusetts, to Bunker Hill CC, from Binghamton State College in

New York state where he was a live wire and also an organizing inspiration to us neophytes. He used to say that "An expert was anyone who crossed a state line to get here" He was very visible at annual gatherings.

After a few years one male whose name escapes me started showing up

from Rhode Island Community College and I personally felt that we ought to include him by changing the name to NEMATYC. Also, the name sounded like the drill and had a nice ring to it. We made attempts to draw in Vermont and New Hampshire, to little avail, and we drove to Connecticut to talk to people there about merging with us, but they had a viable organization and did not want to be absorbed in to a fledgling group.

And we had a lot of fun for several years We continued for a few years but the zing was gone and after attending the organizational meeting in New York City for the formation of the national organization of two year colleges, it became what the Massachusetts Community College System has become, a good idea...

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 2005 at Bunker Hill CC, Charlestown, MA



Registration: Some of the volunteers that made NEMATYC 2005 a great success: Left to right: Co-chair Geri Curley, Abdul Kalokoh, Mbaira Maorongarti, Co-chair Shirley MacKenzie, William MacKenzie



Presentations: Kevin O'Brien and Michelle Renda, Pearson: Addison-Wesley, Prentice Hall, present on "Effective Web-Based Tutorials"

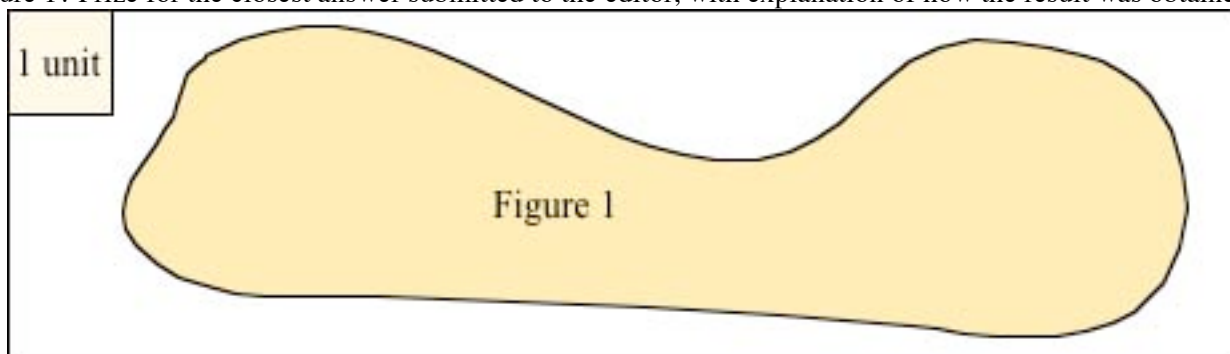


Presentations: Alan Tussy presents on "The Eureka! Experience" assisted, momentarily, by Phil Mahler



Friday Evening Reception was at the Boston Science Museum: Walter Stone, (North Shore), Judy Carter, Newsletter Production Editor (North Shore), Lois Martin, Treasurer (Massasoit), Phil Mahler, Newsletter Editor (Middlesex), Alan Tussy (Citrus College - CA)

Practical Geometry/Calculus: If the area of the square shown is 1 square unit, what is the approximate area of Figure 1? Prize for the closest answer submitted to the editor, with explanation of how the result was obtained.





Lunch: John Jacobs (Mass Bay) and one of his π , radian, clocks. John created several of these to be raffled off at the conference. To his left Bob O'Connell (Mass Bay), to his right Rick Butterworth, NEMATYC Webmaster (Massasoit)



Business Meeting: Ted Carlson (BHCC) helped out at the conference and won a door prize at the business meeting. Here he draws the next winner, assisting President Elaine Previte.



North Shore was well represented. L to R: Janice Roden, Beth Lucas, Suellen Robinson, Anne O'Shea, Lora Connelly, John Tobey - all in addition to Walter Stone, Judy Carter, pictured on the previous page.



Steve Krevisky, former NEMATYC and MATYCONN president, rises to address the group at the business meeting. To his left, John Karnowski, MATYCONN President

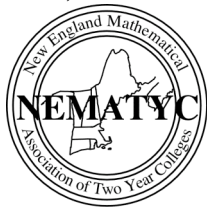
AMATYC Project ACCESS 2005 continued from page 2

Curtis Mitchell of Greenfield CC says he heard about Project ACCESS from his department chair, and past NEMATYC contributor, Linda Cavanaugh. This is his second year at GCC, after graduate school at Yale and teaching as an adjunct at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg and as a high school substitute teacher.



He is very excited about being a part of Project ACCESS, and reports that part of what he really enjoys about his job is that his colleagues are very devoted to their students and to the quality of their teaching, and are very willing to share ideas and approaches for working with students. He is looking forward to the opportunity to talk over teaching with a varied and talented group of people and thinks he'll be a much better teacher for that experience.

NEMATYC NEWSLETTER
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PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

AMATYC Annual Conference

- San Diego, CA – November 10-13, 2005

ATMNE Conference and NCTM Eastern Regional Conference

- October 6-8, 2005 – Hartford, CT

NCTM Conference

- April 26-29, 2006 – St. Louis, MO

NEMATYC

- April 21-22, 2006 – Southern New Hampshire University

MAA Conference (with AMS, SIAM)

- January 12-15, 2006 – San Antonio, TX

NE-MAA

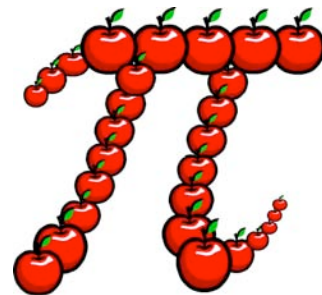
- November 18-19, 2005 – University of New Hampshire, Durham

T3 Regional Conference – Texas Instruments and MATHWEST

- March 31, April 1, 2006, MassMutual Convention Center, Springfield, MA
- <http://www.mathwest.org/ConferencesEvents/Conferences.htm>

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MAA	www.MAA.org
ASA	www.AMSTAT.org
ATMNE	www.ATMNE.org



Think about it...