

NEMATYC NEWS



Vol 18, No 1

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

Fall, 2009



From the President Carol Henry



I hope that your semester is off to a good start.

Right now we can all begin to feel the stir of change in the air. This Fall, the change is felt as the warm days of summer turn to the crisp cool days of autumn. Change can be seen as our leafy green trees metamorphose into our colorful landscape of orange, red, and yellow. These are all changes that we in New England have come to anticipate when we return to school in September.

But, this September we have all begun to notice even bigger changes. Increasing numbers of students are flooding into our community colleges seeking a high-quality college education. As a result, our classrooms are full and the community college population is bursting at the seams. President Obama has put community colleges in the spotlight with his \$12 Billion "American Graduation"

Continued on page 3

From Your AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President

Jane Tanner



NEMATYC Colleagues:

The summer has definitely been busy and I am thinking it is good to be back to teaching now so I can slow down! Classes are well underway now for the fall semester and I am hoping to take advantage of the many AMATYC activities that are coming!

So, what did I do on my summer "vacation"? I was so psyched after attending the *Beyond Crossroads* Summer Institute held at Cape Cod Community College this summer. Mary Kehoe Moynihan and her helpers made all of us feel welcome as we worked hard to implement the standards into our special projects. If you haven't attended a summer institute before, be sure to check out what is going on for Summer 2010 at www.amatyc.org. It is great networking with other concerned two-year college math faculty in a relaxed atmosphere.

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NEMATYC 2010

36th Annual Meeting

CONNECTIONS

Announcement & Call for Presenters Inside





NEMATYC 2010

Connections

The NEMATYC Spring Conference will be at MassBay Community College in 2010! We're looking forward to connecting with each other and exploring new ways to connect with our students and helping our students make connections with this fabulous subject we teach. Whether you are connecting or re-connecting, we hope to see you all there April 9-10 in Wellesley Hills!

Meredith

(A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza Natick, 1360 Worcester Road, Natick, MA 01760. Call 888-233-9527 or visit the personalized web link: https://resweb.passkey.com/go/NEMATYC)



NEMATYC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Spring 2009 - Spring 2010

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There are 10 kinds of people in this world. ... Those who understand binary and those who don't.

A statistician was practicing archery. The first arrow went 6" to the left of the bulls eye. The second went 6" to the right. I got it! she exclaimed.

Initiative" proposal. He has put forth this tenyear initiative to help bolster the community colleges that serve as a launching point for careers or expanded learning opportunities for millions of students around the United States. President Obama has called this investment in community colleges crucial because in the coming years "jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience". The Obama administration's initiatives are expected to serve as a foundation to help boost enrollment and graduation rates. Right now, there are approximately 6 million Americans attending community colleges and the goal is to have an additional 5 million community college graduates by 2020. While it is fantastic to hear that more money may soon be used for the community colleges, we all know that the success of the Obama administration's initiatives rests with those of us who are in the classroom working directly with the students. So what can we all do to help reach the proposed goals?

As teachers, we need to be aware of the initiatives and any proposed changes. We must remain up-to-date with the new technology, pedagogy, assessment techniques, and instructional methods that are available. We must be prepared to try these new methods in our classrooms.

One of the best ways to stay informed about changes in mathematics education is through professional organizations and workshops that are available. Meredith Watts and her crew at Mass-Bay Community College are already hard at work planning for the NEMATYC Annual Conference that will take place on MassBay's Wellesley campus on April 9 - 10, 2010. We hope you will join us there! Please consider presenting/sharing any innovative things that are working in your classroom.

Additional opportunities for Professional Development

AMATYC Annual Conference

November 12 - 15, 2009 in Las Vegas

NCTM Conference

October 21 - 23, 2009 in Boston

ATMIM Winter Conference

January 14, 2010 at Boston College

AMATYC 2010 Annual Conference

November 11 - 14, 2010 in Boston!

Math Across the Curriculum

August 16-18, 2010 (see page 11)

Have a great semester!

Carol Henry NEMATYC President Middlesex Community College

From the Regional VP – continued from page 1

A few weeks after visiting Cape Cod, I flew to Seattle to take part in a New Life Developmental Math Workshop. Fifteen AMATYC members spent two-and-one-half days talking about algebra and what can be done to make it more meaningful to our students. To quote Jack Rotman, chair of AMATYC's Developmental Mathematics Committee, the "primary goal is to outline in a general way how we could design the developmental mathematics program to more efficiently meet student needs as identified in the mission statement." This work is continuing through conversations on the New Pathways wiki - http://dmnew-life.wikispaces.com/MathPathways_NewVision.

I am hoping to see you in Las Vegas at the 35th Annual AMATYC Conference. The theme is High Expectations. Come and hear our keynote speakers

Uri Treisman (On Behalf of Our Students: Building a New Science of Instruction) and Deborah Nolan (What a Coincidence!) Featured speakers will present such topics as The Probabilities of Basic Sports Wagering and Mathamagic.

If you are interested in Developmental Mathematics, I am just "betting" that you will be in Las Vegas. There will be a New Life for Developmental Mathematics

LAS VEGAS - 2009

Symposium on Friday and Saturday. This is where the work in Seattle will be unveiled as well as an implementation workshop to take the strategies and course outlines to design individual plans. Jack Rotman and Rosemary Karr, past president of NADE and the 2007 U.S. Professor of the Year for Community Colleges, will provide their expertise as participants look at the state of developmental mathematics.

If you are interested in learning more about AMATYC, there will be two sessions in Vegas just for you:

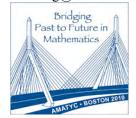
- AMATYC 101 Enhancing Your First Conference Experience
- AMATYC 201 Professional Opportunities Through AMATYC

Come to these sessions to find out what AMATYC is all about! More information about this conference can be found at the AMATYC web site,

http://www.amatyc.org. If this will be your first AMATYC conference, you will receive a special invitation to attend a reception at 6 p.m. on Thursday evening. This will allow you to meet other first-time attendees, have some light refreshments, and make plans for the rest of the conference.

You probably are already aware of the fact that the next 2010 AMATYC conference is being held in Boston November 11-14. The theme of this meeting is "Bridging Past to Future in Mathematics". Please consider submitting a proposal to present. Proposals can be submitted at www.amatyc.org beginning November 1, 2009. The deadline for submitting this proposal is February 1, 2010. I am sure that Jack Keating could use your help in making sure that this will be

the best conference that AMATYC has ever had. Please contact him if you are interested in helping out. JKeating@massasoit.mass.edu.



By now you should have received AMATYC's new journal *MathAMATYC Educator*. I hope that you like the new format and find the articles pertinent to teaching mathemat-

ics at the two-year college. Editor Pete Wildman and Production Manager Jim Roznowski have put in hundreds of hours to develop a professional journal that addresses the needs of our members.

It is my hope that you already experiencing the benefits of being a member of AMATYC. If you are not a member, go to http://www.amatyc.org, then under "Get Involved" select "Join AMATYC" to become a member and start to enjoy all of the benefits.

I hope to see you in Las Vegas in November and I am looking forward to helping out with the Boston conference. Have a good semester and remember that if you have any questions or input, get in touch with me! I am YOUR representative on AMATYC's Executive Board.

Jane

Have you heard about Wolfram|Alpha? http://www.wolframalpha.com http://www.wolframalpha.com If not, take a look at what is available to anyone, including our students, to use on-line. It will show the steps you might use to solve a linear or quadratic equation, even literal equations. Enter "solve 15x-A=9x+B for x" for example. Then ask it "who was leonhard euler?"



is a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college mathematics faculty. The project's goal is to provide experiences that will help new faculty become more effective teachers and active members of the broader mathematical community.

Although we know that negative solutions to equations were often discounted as not valid until fairly recently, Diophantus (3rd century) knew that the product of two negative quantities was positive. In his *Arithmetica* he wrote

Wanting (that is negativity) multiplied by wanting yields forthcoming (that is positivity); wanting multiplied by forthcoming equals wanting.

From Unknown Quantity by John Derbyshire, 2006

NEMATYC STUDENT MATH LEAGUE REPORT

Lois Martin, Student Math League Awards Coordinator

RECOGNITION AWARD PROGRAM

The purpose of the NEMATYC Student Math League Recognition Award Program is to foster extracurricular mathematics learning opportunities for students through participation in the AMATYC Student Mathematics League. Annually, the top-placing student in the AMATYC SML Competition, in each school in NEMATYC's service area, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, will receive a \$100 Recognition Award.

Note also that AMATYC is a sponsor of Mu Alpha Theta, a national mathematics honor society primarily for high school students but which supports two-year college chapters as well. Information on both the SML and Mu Alpha Theta is at the AMATYC web

site, www.AMATYC.org. NEMATYC encourages you to consider joining the AMATYC Student Mathematics League and participating in this NEMATYC program. Your involvement can be as simple as just administering the tests or might include practice sessions or even advising a campus mathematics club.

Note also that AMATYC is a sponsor of Mu Alpha Theta, a national mathematics honor society primarily for high school students but which supports two-year college chapters as well. Information on both the SML and Mu Alpha Theta is at the AMATYC web site, www.AMATYC.org.

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

Some History

NEMATYC team participation and success has improved dramatically over the past 6 years. In 03-04, two NEMATYC teams were involved, increasing to three, then six, and up to the current nine. Over this time period, NEMATYC teams have captured the northeast region championship four times.

Join the Fun

The first test of the 2009-2010 competition will be given October 16-31. If your college doesn't have a team, please consider joining the spirited rivalry among the participating NEMATYC schools. Your students will thank you for giving them the opportunity to compete at the regional and national level. Visit http://sml.nematyc.info/for more information.

NEMATYC 2008–2009 Student Math League Standings

Rank*		INDIVIDUAL		Rank*	TEAM	
1	Brian Cowles	Springfield Tech CC	59.5	3	Springfield Tech CC	188.0
4	Matthias Galvin	Springfield Tech CC	50.0	5	Massasoit CC	155.5
8	Runfeng Chen	Bristol CC	42.0	7	Cape Cod CC	125.0
10	David Denny	Massasoit CC	38.0	8	Middlesex CC	124.0
13	Quang Nguyem	Southern Maine CC	36.0	9	Southern Maine CC	122.0
17	Jack Ferdman	Massasoit CC	32.0	10	Bristol CC	119.0
11 (tie)	John Harper	Middlesex CC	36.5	11	Holyoke CC	118.0
14 (tie)	Michael Teahan	Cape Cod CC	35.0	12	North Shore CC	113.0
17 (tie)	Giang Nguyen	North Shore CC	32.0	15	Mt Wachusett CC	32.0

^{*}Rank for the AMATYC Northeast Region, This report excludes schools outside the NEMATYC SML Region.

JOIN NEMATYC

Not a member of NEMATYC? Join by sending the \$10.00 annual membership fee, payable to NEMATYC, to

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

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Andrew Perry, NEMATYC Past President

Every year, NEMATYC holds elections for open positions during the business meeting at the annual conference in April. This year, we need to fill almost all of the Executive Board positions, including President. We are looking for you to help us fill these roles. If you've never been involved with NEMATYC, now is a great time to start!! Working with our Board is a rewarding and fun experience, and is a wonderful way to put your professional dedication into action! It's great for you, your department and college, and the New England mathematics community.

As a brief overview, the Board meets three times per year in addition to attending the annual conference, generally in September, January, and June.

Here is a brief overview of the available positions. See the Constitution at www.NEMATYC.org for a more detailed description of each position. Please contact Past President **Andrew Perry** at perryand@yahoo.com should you wish to place your name – or that of a colleague – into nomination!

President

- Two-year term
- Conducts meetings and fulfills all duties normally associated with this office
- Assume the two-year term of past-president at the conclusion of the term
- Travel support to AMATYC conference

Vice-President

- One-year term
- Conducts meetings and fulfills the obligations of the President if the President cannot
- Assumes Presidency if the President is unable to continue in office

Secretary

- Two-year term
- Take minutes of the official meetings of the Association
- Maintain Association documents

Treasurer

- Three-year term
- Be in charge of all financial records and funds of the Association
- Give a report at the annual business meeting

At-Large Member (2 needed)

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

HELP WANTED

You may know that the annual national AMATYC conference comes to Boston November 11-14, 2010! I am the Local Events Coordinator, and chances are I could use your help!

Las Vegas - November 12-15, 2009

On Wednesday Nov 11 we will have a Boston display area near the registration desk from 4-9pm, and the same during the day on Thursday Nov 12th when registration is being held. If people can volunteer to sit and talk to people about Boston that would be great. Let me know (e-mail address below).





Boston - November 11-14, 2010

We will be stuffing registrant bags, organizing and staffing a hospitality room, being available to provide local information, helping the staff run errands at the meeting, and generally being around to answer participant questions and help solve their problems.

If you think you'll be able to help in Boston, please e-mail me to that effect. We did it in 1993, and I can tell you, it's a lot of fun!

Jack Keating Local Arrangements Coordinator JKeating@massasoit.mass.edu

Call for Presenters NEMATYC 2010

Send by January 14

Connections

MassBay Community College – Wellesley Hills, MA April 9-10, 2010

Suggested themes: Teaching techniques, curriculum changes/development, distance education, assessment, using tablet pc's, modeling data, connecting with students, or any other you feel is relevant! ** Note the registration fee for ONE presenter per presentation will be waived. Please specify which one if there are multiple presenters. ** **Contact information**: College or affiliation Telephone (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: Equipment/technology needs: Workshops, short seminars, discussion panels and poster sessions are encouraged. If you need additional information or have any questions, please call Meredith Watts, 1-508-270-4264, or email mwatts@massbay.edu Proposal Deadline: January 14, 2010 Send to: Meredith Watts, NEMATYC 2010 MassBay Community College 19 Flagg Drive Framingham, MA 01702 or send via e-mail to: mwatts@massbay.edu (If you don't receive an email reply within 24 hours, please call Meredith Watts at the above number.) Electronic Submissions are encouraged. Please include all of the above information.

NEMATYC News – Fall 2009

NEMATYC Conference 40, 30, 20, 10, and... 1 Year Ago

NEMATYC 1970 In 1970 NEMATYC did not yet exist but it's parent MMATYC (Massachusetts...) organization did. **Frank Deane** of Berkshire Community College was its president. **Amy West, Joan McGowen**, and Herb Gross (a founder of AMATYC) were leaders among the activists. The active participation of **Joe Menard** of the Community College of Rhode Island would lead to changing "Massachusetts" to "New England", in 1974.



NEMATYC 1980 was hosted by North Shore Community College and Pine Manor College, on March 29. It was chaired by renowned textbook author **John Tobey**, and the theme was "Innovations in the Teaching of Mathematics". A scan of the participants shows many names you might recognize, and notable among them from the current Executive Committee, our webmaster **Rick Butterworth**. A keynote address was given by the well-known author Howard Eves, University of Maine *Perhaps the Most-Used Technique in Mathematics*. (A quick scan at online at Amazon finds more than seven books by him.) ... OK, what was the technique? Also on the program were panel discussions or presentations on: *Remedial Courses In Mathematics*, *Math Laboratories / Tutorial Centers*, Competency-Based And Self-Paced Courses In Mathematics, Placement Testing In Mathematics, and Computer-Assisted Instruction. The more things change, the more...

NEMATYC 1990 was held at Massachusetts Bay Community College. Chaired by **John Jacobs**, the theme was "Math 4 the Fun of It". There were two seatings for lunch! Those not eating were participating in *Math 4 the Fun of It*, a collection of songs and poetry. John actually printed a 124 page bound proceedings of the meeting. The extensive program featured a broad range of topics and speakers, covering chaos to arithmetic to linear algebra, and speakers from many two-year and four-year colleges, MIT, and COMAP.

NEMATYC 2000 was held at Bristol Community College on Friday and Saturday, April 7 and 8, 2000. Program chairs were **Bernice Bowdoin** and **Susan Hoy** of Bristol Community College.

Friday evening included a visit to the Fall River Historical Society, home of Lizzie Borden, and after dinner speaker Jules Ryckebusch, Bristol Community College faculty member and world renowned expert on Lizzie Borden, who gave a fascinating lecture on that subject. The program included *What is Being Taught in K-12 and its Effect on Community College Math Curriculum, Is it True That Cooperative Learning Approaches Can Do it All?*, and *A Reformed College Algebra Course*.

NEMATYC 2009 is on the next page

Visit the newly redesigned NEMATYC website!

Webmaster **Rick Butterworth** has extensively revamped the NEMATYC website. Go to http://www.nematyc.org and browse the links: Conference, Executive Board, Membership, On-line Newsletters, Member Colleges, Mathematics Associations, History, Documents, Job Opportunities, E-mail for NEMATYC.



NEMATYC 2009 was held at Southern New Hampshire University on Friday and Saturday, April 24, 25, 2009. The theme was "Fill Up Your Math Tank". The conference co-chairs were **David Cox** and **Alec Ingraham**. Attendees had an opportunity to visit the McAuliffe Planetarium in Concord NH, and to hear a Grammy Award winning mathematician, Dr **Kevin Short**, UNH! Selections from the great program include *The Impact of Faculty Tablet PC Usage Upon Student Learning and Faculty Teaching, Massachusetts Mathematics (PK-12) Curriculum Framework Revision, Mathematics Across The Curriculum (MAC), Evolution of Mathematics Education in America, Math Success Learning Community*. Some pictures from the meeting...



Pamela Cohen, Southern New Hampshire U., presents certificates of appreciation to presenters **Norma Bisulca** and **DeAnna McAler**, University of Maine at Augusta



Lora Connely, North Shore, **Bob O'Connell**, MassBay, **Meredith Watts**, MassBay, **Judy Carter**, North Shore, participate in a hands-on session.



The book exhibits, always popular.... On the right is **Ken Takvorian**, Mt Wachusett CC. Ken was on the first list of participants we have, from 1980! On the left is Denise Robichaud of Quinsigamond CC. The Pearson representative is Frank Steed.



The always popular ... Lunch! That's **Bonnie Wicklund** (Mt Wachusett), President **Carol Henry** (Middlesex) selling raffle tickets, **Joe Kieronski**, Former NEMATYC President **Roberta Kieronski**,

The **AMATYC Conference** this year is
November 12 - 15, 2009, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Would you have a great time, meet interesting colleagues, get new ideas for your curriculum and teaching, and generally get your batteries recharged?

Are you kidding? It's an AMATYC conference!

YOU CAN BET ON IT!

Register at www.amatyc.org.



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News from our Campuses and Colleagues Cape Cod CC

Cape Cod Community College hosted an AMATYC conference on statistics in June 2008, and this year on June 11 and 12 it hosted, with NEMATYC, an AMATYC conference on *Crossroads Revisited*. Delicious snacks were provided by the catering team of **Carol Henry** (Middlesex, NEMATYC President), **Lois Martin** (Massasoit), **Becky Metcalf** (Bridgewater State College), and **Mary Moynihan** (Cape Cod, Local Arrangements Coordinator). (Our catering rates are VERY reasonable!) In attendance were 34 mathematics instructors from 13 states, from Arizona to West Virginia, and in addition presenters from California to North Carolina.



Some of the participants working on projects related to improving their program with the guidance of *Cross-roads Revisited*.



Rikki Blair, AMATYC President, and **Mary Moynihan** Cape Cod CC, NEMATYC At-large member, who did the (great) local arrangements.

Robin Dengler has developed a handbook for developmental faculty in math from the 100% math recommendations. She also put together a packet of common forms (ABS, Incomplete, Early intervention, etc) and class materials for all adjuncts to use. Contact Robin (RDengler@capecod.edu) if you want to see the handbook.

Holyoke CC

James Morgan reports the following. Last fall our department welcomed its newest full-time member, Cathy Dillard. We have continued to administer the AMATYC Student Math League tests twice per year, and we are in our third year of offering this competition. Aaron Levin, our developmental mathematics coordinator, has been the campus coordinator for a universal design study administered by Landmark College in Vermont. This study focuses on internet technology as it relates to developmental algebra, and it has received good support from both full-time and adjunct faculty on our campus. We received a modest developmental math grant this semester through our campus grant manager. Lastly, Aaron Levin and the representatives to our Developmental Education Forum have created and implemented a series of developmental mathematics workshops for faculty teaching these math courses. So far we have offered workshops on assessment and learning disabilities in the DE classroom, and the spring workshops are currently being discussed.

Massasoit CC

Mary Sullivan will be participating in the 2008-2009 Project ACCCESS cohort.

Lois Martin was selected for the Association of Teachers of Mathematics in Massachusetts (ATMIM) Hall of Fame. Massasoit's press release included "Professor Martin has served as the mathematics department chair and in other leadership roles at the College; she has been a CONNECT mathematics representative from Massasoit Community College and has served as the CONNECT mathematics co-facilitator; she has been the advisor of the Massasoit Math Team and helped guide that student group to outstanding regional recognition; and she has been an active member of both NEMATYC and AMATYC and received the 2007 Mathematics Educator of the Year Award at the annual meeting in Minneapolis that year. In addition, Professor Martin has given many presentations at both local, regional, and national conferences." Congratulations to Lois!

MassBay CC

Meredith Watts, program chair for this year, will be participating in the 2008-2009 Project ACCCESS cohort.

Continued on the next page.

News from our Campuses and Colleagues - continued

Middlesex CC

Middlesex is in its second year of a three-year NSF CCLI grant to support a Math Across the Curriculum initiative. As the first step in the Math across the Curriculum grant, Co-Leaders Carol Hay (Math Department chair) and Jessie Klein (Science) hosted a MAC workshop at the Essex Conference Center in Essex, MA in late July, 2008. Participants emanated from three different academic divisions. Faculty worked in teams to develop lessons that integrated math lessons into their course content. The second year of the grant was extended to include faculty from other colleges and/or high schools who would be interested in developing MAC projects. To this end, Middlesex offered a three-day Institute at the John Carver Inn, Plymouth, MA, May 18 - 20, 2009. This year (2010) the institute will be held August 16-18, 2010 at the same Plymouth location. Persons interested in more information can contact Carol Hay at MAC@middlesex.mass.edu.

This year the college continues hosting an internal series of workshops on How People Learn, a grant-funded project through Northeastern University. Several NEMATYC members have already participated.



The Mathematics Across the Curriculum – May 2009 Group



The Mathematics Across the Curriculum – May 2009 Group – **Linda Dart-Kathios**, **Marge Bleichman** of Middlesex.

Middlesex CC - Connecticut

Steve Krevisky gave a paper entitled *Who Are The Best Sluggers In Baseball*?, co-written with **Randy Taylor** of Las Positas College in California, at the 9th International Conference on Technology in Mathematics Teaching. The conference took place in Metz, France from July 6 to 9, 2009. After the conference, peripatetic Steve traveled to Paris, Heidelberg, Basel and Zurich. He also traveled in the US; at the right he is in the Sierra Nevadas. on the way to Yosemite.



North Shore CC

Marsha Pease is piloting a 1-credit math review course. Students will self-assess their mathematics level using the web-based software ALEKS and then use that system to work independently under the guidance of NSCC faculty to review and fill in gaps in their mathematical backgrounds. Students will then retest on the CPT Accuplacer and enroll in the appropriate NSCC math course.

Announcement

Carol Hay announces that the **Mathematics Across the Curriculum** initiative mentioned above under Middlesex CC will hold its third year event on August 16-18, 2010 at the John Carver Inn in Plymouth, Massachusetts. For further information contact MAC@middlesex.mass.edu .

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



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

Visit www.NEMATYC.org

See you at

NEMATYC 2010 April 9-10, 2010 MassBay Community College

Meredith Watts, Chair

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