

MichMATYC SUM-TIMES

Two Years College Mathematics in Michigan



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May 2017

Inside this issue: *Greetings from the president, Save the Dates, Message from AMATYC Midwest VP, MichMATYC Mentoring Program, Campus News, Professional Development Update.*

Greetings from the President: Anna Cox, Kellogg CC

Hello Mathematics Educators!

I want to start by congratulating all the educators who may be retiring and thank you for your many years of service! As we wind down the semester, please know what a difference you make in your students' lives and how important you are to their futures. I am so proud of what we do and thank everyone for their passion, enthusiasm and dedication!

I have spent part of this past year reaching out to other local affiliates and learning about their organizations and hope to implement some ideas that have been successful for them. Each state is unique. There is much to be learned and shared and in the process help make all the associations stronger. One idea that I love is to start a community discussion of books that we read or research that we have studied or participated in. Does anyone have a suggestion on what to read over the summer that we could then discuss in the fall?

As I finish serving the elected term for Doug Mace and begin my term, I would like to sincerely thank our amazing executive board whose members include Cindie Wade as past president from Saint Clair Community College, Sam Bazzi as treasurer and secretary from Henry Ford College, Frances Lichtman as an AMATYC delegate from Delta College and Marie St. James from Saint Clair Community College as an AMATYC delegate. Our two new delegates for AMATYC starting this summer are Michael Pemberton of Lansing Community College and Lisa Winch of Kalamazoo Valley Community College. I appreciate their willingness to serve and commitment to attend the annual meetings in order to represent us and vote on important issues. Other members of our organization that I would like to thank are Desidera Kooswinarsinindyah from Macomb Community College who is doing a fantastic job as our MichMATYC newsletter editor and Mark Pelfrey from Southwestern Michigan as MichMATYC Website Editor. We continue to work to improve our organization and are receptive to your ideas and suggestions. A specific goal we have is to increase membership and we would appreciate your help in recruiting new members.

MichMATYC Teaching Excellence Award - Nominations due May 17

The nomination form and more information may be found on the [MichMATYC webpage](#).

Karen Sharp Student Scholarship Award - Nominations due June 1

Nominate an outstanding student at your institution for this \$500 scholarship! The nomination form and more information may be found on the [MichMATYC webpage](#).

Save the Date - MichMATYC Fall Conference - October 20-21

MichMATYC will hold the fall conference October 20-21, 2017 at Baker College in Muskegon Michigan. Mark your calendars! Reminder, the proposals for presenting are due May 15! I encourage you to share your amazing wealth of knowledge.

MiTEAM - Applications due August 15

Please encourage people to apply for the NEW mentoring and professional development initiative called MiTEAM (Michigan Teacher Enrichment and Mentoring). It will be offered for new full-time or adjunct faculty teaching mathematics in the first two years of college. The nomination form and more information may be found on the [MichMATYC webpage](#).

Project ACCESS - Applications due May 15

There is only a week left to apply for Cohort 14 of Project ACCESS. At this point it will be a scramble, but it's totally, absolutely, incredibly worth it! If next year will be year 1, 2, or 3 of your first full-time contract at a two-year college, check out www.amatyc.org/access.

Fall AMATYC Conference - November 9-12 in San Diego

"Have a Prime Time" while building your mathematical expertise at the 2017 AMATYC Conference in sunny San Diego. There is so much to choose from in addition to attending the sessions. The AMATYC Conference is truly awesome. You'll have lots of MichMATYC friends to keep you company, and it's always wonderful building relationships with math educators from all over the country. Put in now for your travel funds...This is outstanding professional development that you do not want to miss!

Scholarship Available for AMATYC Conference

Need some help in order to attend the fall conference? AMATYC provides MichMATYC with an affiliate scholarship for \$360, which is the cost of early member registration for the conference. If you need support for attending the AMATYC conference, let me know in an email by August 1. Preference will be given to a first-time AMATYC attendee.

Fall WisMATYC Conference - October 7

Our neighboring states have outstanding conferences, and there is one coming up this fall. The 2017 WisMATYC Conference will be held at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville on Saturday October 7. I plan to attend and would love to have you there too!

I encourage you to find ways to be more involved in our organization through joining committees, presenting at the conference and networking with other individuals.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a wonderful summer and to encourage you to reach out to any of your executive board members if you have any questions or concerns. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president. I have the highest regard for the MichMATYC organization and its fantastic members. We are a great community of educators.

Anna Cox
 MichMATYC president
 Kellogg Community College

SAVE THE DATES



43rd AMATYC Annual Conference
 San Diego, CA
 November 9-12, 2017

MichMATYC 2017 Conference
 October 20 - 21, 2017
 Baker College, Muskegon

Do you know?

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AMATYC Update

Jon Oaks

AMATYC Midwest Regional Vice President

jonnyoaks@gmail.com



I can hardly believe that this semester is already coming to a close. At my college, the semester ends on May 13th. The break between the semesters just never seems long enough when there is so much to enjoy outdoors in the summer months in Michigan. My favorite activities are probably footgolf and disc golf!

For those of you who don't know already, every spring, the AMATYC Executive Board meets for the AMATYC Spring Board Meeting. Some of the highlights of this year's meeting include the approval of reduced conference registration rates for retirees and adjuncts for AMATYC's 43rd Annual Conference in San Diego November 9-12. In addition, the affiliate scholarship was approved for this year's conference for one MichMATYC member to receive a free registration!

I truly do hope that you will make plans to attend the conference this November. This year's theme is "Have a Prime Time."

Although it is too late to apply to be a presenter, please consider presiding over a session at the conference. Duties include introducing the speaker, helping with handouts, and giving directions on how to complete the session evaluation form. The presider form can be found at:

<http://confreg.matyc.org/preside/index-2017.php>

On that note, if you love the AMATYC conferences, you might be interested to know that AMATYC is now accepting applications for the AMATYC Conference Coordinator Position. General information about the position can be found on Page 6 of the April 2017 Issue of the AMATYC News. Interested candidates should submit a vita, letter of support from a supervisor, and a personal letter describing their qualifications and experience related to this position to the search committee chair, Wanda Garner, at wgarner@amatyc.org no later than July 15, 2017. A complete job description can be found at http://www.amatyc.org/resource/resmgr/job_board/Conf_Coordinator.pdf

Other Notes from Around AMATYC:



2016 Denver Conference Proceedings Now Available - The theme of the 42nd AMATYC Annual Conference November 17-20, 2016, in Denver, CO, was "Math at a Mile High." The Keynote Presentations were "What Every Math Teacher Needs to Know About Statistics," by Rick Cleary, and "Learning Math is Not a Spectator Sport," by Maria Andersen. Videos of these presentations, along with the rest of the conference proceedings, are now available at: <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=2016ConfProc>

Please consider joining one of AMATYC's Academic Committees, such as the Research in Mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges (RMETYC). The purpose of RMETYC is to encourage quality research in mathematics education in two-year colleges by: (a) providing organizational support and mentoring for faculty researchers and institutions conducting research in mathematics education and its application in promoting effective teaching strategies and (b) providing support for the dissemination of findings and results emerging from research conducted with two-year colleges.

For more information please visit the RMETYC blog at <http://rmetyc.blogspot.com/p/purpose-statement.html> or contact John Smith at jtsmith2@pstcc.edu. Please remember you can join RMETYC anytime by visiting the AMATYC website.

AMATYC Webinars - Webinars are great form of Professional Development that you can do from the comfort of your own home or office. If you miss a webinar, you can always watch the recording online for free! The next webinar is:

Teaching with GAISE: Statistical Literacy for the 21st Century
Monday, May 22, 2017
4:30 pm EDT / 3:30 pm CDT / 2:30 pm MDT / 1:30 pm PDT

AMATYC Midwest Region on Facebook - I encourage you to join the AMATYC Midwest Regional Group on Facebook, if you haven't already. This is a great place to see more frequent updates from around the region and have informal networking with others.



Consider Membership in AMATYC - I encourage you to learn about and join AMATYC if you are not a member. For more information about AMATYC events and activities, please check out the recent AMATYC newsletter at <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=AMATYCNews> or visit the AMATYC website at www.amatyc.org.

Thanks for all you do in the wonderful state of **Michigan** and for your continued support of MichMATYC and AMATYC. If there is ever anything that I can do to assist you at all, please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me at jonnyoaks@gmail.com. I hope you have a great summer!

Jon

MichMATYC Begins Mentoring Program for New Full-Time or Adjunct Faculty

Beginning with this year's fall conference meeting, the organization will start a new mentoring and professional development initiative, called MiTEAM (Michigan Teacher Enrichment and Mentoring), for new full-time or adjunct mathematics faculty at two-year colleges within the state. The program's goal is to provide experiences that will help new faculty at two-year colleges become more effective teachers and active members of the organization, as well as the broader mathematical community.

Participants in MiTEAM 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.

Participants will attend two consecutive MichMATYC Conferences where they will complete a program developed for new faculty, including regular conference activities. In the intervening year, participants will be required to develop, implement, and evaluate a project at their home institution. In addition to learning and networking opportunities, participants will receive a one-year membership in MichMATYC for each year and a certificate of completion.

The inaugural cohort of 10 MiTEAM participants will complete the following activities during the two year program:

- 2017 Fall Conference Hosted by Baker College in Muskegon
 - o Attend four (4) sessions during the conference with presentations specifically for new two-year mathematics faculty.
 - o Meet with a mentor to discuss ideas for their development, implementation, and evaluation of a project at the participant's home institution.

- Between Fall Conferences
 - o Communicate with consulting mentor during completion of the project between the first and second years in the program.

- 2018 Fall Conference Hosted by Kalamazoo Valley Community College
 - o Attend two (2) sessions during the conference with presentations specifically for new two-year mathematics faculty,
 - o Present their MiTEAM project during a mini-poster session at the conference.

The participant's home institution will be expected to cover costs of the participant's conference registration and transportation for two consecutive MichMATYC conferences and meals not covered in registration. The total anticipated institutional commitment to be around \$650 per year.

Applications for Cohort 1 will be accepted starting April 1, 2017

Deadline for Applications is August 15, 2017 Apply online now at bit.ly/MiTeam

For more information, please contact MiTEAM Program Coordinator, Michael Pemberton at pembertm@lcc.edu or (517) 483-1536.

~~~~~ CAMPUS NEWS ~~~~~

**Alpena CC - Dan Rothe**

The semester is winding down as I write this report and summer weather isn't far away. There were however, a few snowflakes in the air in the Cheboygan area this morning. We look forward to a restful summer so that we can come back energized next fall.

Instructors Meghan Cameron and Jim Berles will be experimenting with online homework for the arithmetic class next fall.

The Regional Science Olympiad Tournament hosted at ACC went well with many department faculty and Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society members running events.

Sigma Zeta Math/Science Honor Society inducted five new members as well as honoring five fall inductees at our March 30 formal induction ceremony held at the Besser Museum of Northeast Michigan( see picture below). The speaker was alumni member Mike Lamb not a Pharmacist at LaFave Pharmacy in Alpena. Members were also treated to a planetarium show after induction. We will be going on an end of the semester to Pendallis Creek National Fish Hatchery and the Soo Locks. We are happy to see that almost all of our members are graduating this spring but will be busy with recruitment efforts in the fall. Elected officers for the 2017-2018 school year are: Hazel Blakely, President; Courtney Krentz, Vice President, and Stephanie Domke, Secretary.



## **Delta College - Frances Lichtman**

After six years of leadership in the Mathematics Division, David Redman has completed his term as division chair. The mathematics faculty thanks David for his service to the Division and to Delta College.

At the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Section-MAA and MichMATYC at Ferris State University, Sascha Rivet was elected Two-Year College Vice-Chair of the Michigan Section-MAA and David Redman received the Michigan Section-MAA 2017 Distinguished Service Award.

As a result of college-wide reorganization, Mathematics is now part of the new Science and Mathematics Division. The mathematics faculty welcomes Pete Carlson as Mathematics Discipline Coordinator and looks forward to working with Pete in his new role.

Participants in the Right Math at the Right Time workgroups, Nate Blecke, Frances Lichtman, David Redman, and Mary Roberson, plan to attend the Mathematics Pathways Summit, June 28, at Michigan State University. We hope to see you there!

## **Henry Ford CC - Jeanine DiDonato**

This summer the Henry Ford College Math Placement Committee will pilot a Boot Camp to give students placed into Intermediate Algebra an opportunity to retest and place out of developmental math. Attendance and participation are required in the two-week camp. The Math Department will also pilot some co-requisite course pairings in the Winter 2018 semester in both our Quantitative Literacy and our Statistics pathways.

## **Jackson C - Erik Brown**

### **New Math Path: Quantitative Reasoning**

In Fall 2016 the math department at Jackson College initiated a new math path, Quantitative Reasoning. As part of the Michigan Transfer Agreement, this course is to satisfy math requirements for most non-STEM degrees. The path is a two-course sequence of the developmental education course, Foundations of Mathematics, followed by the college level Quantitative Reasoning. The course curriculum and delivery method was adopted from the University of Texas DANA Center. Students in the course take an active role in the learning process by working through short lessons in small groups. This method has challenged both instructors and students to experience learning outside of the lecture format. The course sequence has also been adopted for the Prison Education Initiative at Jackson College.

### **Job Opening:**

Jackson College is currently seeking a learning facilitator to teach mathematics and business in the Prison Education Initiative. See the following link for more details: <https://jobs.jccmi.edu/postings/1042>



## **Kalamazoo Valley CC - Darlene Kohrman**

This academic year ends with the retirement of two long time faculty members: Cindy Wilson and Kandiah Balachandran. The college plans to hire two full time instructors for fall.

Several members of the department attended conferences this past winter semester. Those conferences included MI-AMTE - Conversations Among Colleagues at MSU. Faculty member Darlene Kohrman participated in the planning and hosting of the preconference workshop of the Statistics Education SIG which was led by Christine Franklin of ASA. This conference was supported financially by members of the department. KVCC hosted MDEC and many faculty and adjuncts attended. In addition, Math in Action, NADE, and a special workshop on ALEKS were also part of the professional development for our mathematics team. Many will participate in a Camtasia workshop as well.

Faculty member Nicole Newman and our dean Paige Eagan are currently involved in the G2C initiative where the department finds itself in the early stages of redesigning our Math 116 or Intermediate Algebra course. Currently this course has a high rate of students earning a 1.0 or less in the course, withdrawing from the course, or taking an Incomplete in the course. Our redesign will be accomplished through the Gateways to Completion initiative through the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. This initiative utilizes data to identify where evidence-based teaching practices can be applied to improve student learning and emphasizes student success as a continuous cycle. KVCC has joined seven other Michigan public postsecondary institutions to participate in the three-year Michigan Gateways to Completion (Michigan G2C) grant project.

## **Lansing CC - Leslie Mohnke**

In spring 2017, the LCC Mathematics Department researched the potential of initiating a chapter of Mu Alpha Theta national mathematics honor society to recognize students for high achievement in mathematics. An application for the establishment of a chapter was submitted to the Mu Alpha Theta national office for review with the anticipation of inducting the inaugural group of students during this fall 2017. Professor Michael Pemberton is leading the way and is willing to serve as the adviser. MATH 121, Pre-Calculus I, was one of three selected courses to participate in Gateways to Completion (G2C) project at Lansing Community College. The project is intended to improve student success and retention in Gateway courses with high enrollment. During the past academic year, the committee was formed, and a Student Assessment Learning Gains survey was administered to all MATH 121 students. Three Key Performance Indicators surveys were set up online and mathematics instructors were invited to complete the surveys.

The committee of instructors have collected, analyzed, and summarized the data and discussed various recommendations that will have a positive impact on student success in MATH 121 course. G2C year 1, Analyze & Plan, is almost completed, and we are excited and looking forward to Year 2, Act & Monitor. Professor Maria Johnson is serving as the chair of this project and can be contacted at [johns257@star.lcc.edu](mailto:johns257@star.lcc.edu).

## Macomb CC South Campus - Jon Oaks

This was another busy semester for faculty within our department:

- Macomb is now one of the Michigan Colleges participating in the Algebra Instruction @ Community Colleges NSF Grant, working with Vilma Mesa from The University of Michigan.
- **Jon Oaks** and **Mohamed Zorkot** are continuing their work on the Michigan Colleges Online (MCO) OER grant. The project will focus on the adoption of an open textbook for our Calculus I course.
- **Jonathan Benefiel** and **Gary Kaplan** have joined the Macomb Multicultural and International Initiatives (MMII) Committee at the college. This committee hosted several math and diversity events this semester, one of which was "STEMinists: Michigan Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics."
- **Lori Chapman**, **Gary Kaplan**, and **Jon Oaks** are part of a subcommittee to consider the redevelopment of our Math 0050 Pre-algebra course.
- **Lori Chapman** and **Jon Oaks** are on a new college-wide committee to increase adjunct faculty engagement at the college. The committee is currently reviewing the results of a survey that went out to all adjunct faculty at the college and seeing what can be done to have more adjunct involvement in a professional development event that Macomb hosts each fall.
- **Gary Kaplan** and **Jon Oaks** attended the Michigan Developmental Education Consortium (MDEC) Conference in March. The theme of the conference was, "Impacting the future of Developmental Education in Michigan." We would like to thank Macomb for giving us the opportunity to attend this conference.
- **Jonathan Benefiel**, **Lori Chapman**, and **Jon Oaks** participated in our department's book discussion on "Mathematical Mindsets" during a college-wide professional development day in April.
- Our department put together a table for Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month in April. The table was a big hit with all the handouts being picked up by students and staff within 2 hours and needing to be restocked several times after that.

## Mid Michigan CC - David Kedrowski

We've had a busy year here at Mid Michigan Community College. We've finished some work and made good progress on other projects, including a developmental math redesign, pathways, learning outcomes, and placement.

After 4-5 years of work our developmental math sequence of Basic Mathematics, Basic Algebra, and Intermediate Algebra have all been redesigned, piloted, and are now running in place of our prior courses. The arithmetic course saw the biggest changes. Instead of trying to remediate most of K-8 mathematics we now focus on two main mathematical ideas, proportional reasoning and working with formulas, and attempt to give students a course that shows them a wide variety of situations where these two ideas can be applied. There's a strong focus on problem solving which the old course did not have. The two algebra courses have been streamlined to get rid of extraneous topics that tended to distract students from the core ideas and knowledge. All three courses have textbooks written by the department that cost students under \$20 and give us complete control over our curriculum.

We've developed a pathway for students looking to focus on mathematics while pursuing our Math and Science Transfer Degree. It is one of a number of pathways through the degree depending on a student's interests and goals. The pathway is clear while still offering students choices (with good recommendations) where possible along the way.

MMCC is using the Degree Qualifications Profile (DQP) to create a common language for categorizing and talking about learning outcomes at the program and course levels. By overlaying DQP on top of a pathways it will be easy to see if students are getting the complete and well-rounded education we believe we are providing them. Our math department has made significant progress toward these goals with Master Course Description and Proficiency documents created for all of our courses and the beginning of a mapping of DQP onto our Pathway. Next year we'll need to work to "tune" our work with departments throughout the college to make sure our language and interpretations of the DQP categories are consistent.

We have started using a multiple-measures placement system for recent high school graduates and dual-enrolled students. We still need to do some work on a placement process for students who don't fit those categories and aren't transferring in math credits from another school. We are no longer using Accuplacer at the direction of our President, which precipitated the need for a new placement system. The new system starts by considering the highest math course a student completed in high school, then uses a combination of their overall high school GPA and their composite SAT math score to place them. We chose overall HS GPA as a proxy for what kind of student an individual is overall and composite SAT math to get a feel for how strong their math skills are. Our IT department is developing a data collection process so we can look back and see how the new placement process works when compared to our old Accuplacer method.

David Kedrowski will be on sabbatical for the fall. His project will conclude with a draft manuscript that parallels a typical Calculus I course focusing on the conceptual side of the course and attempting to ignore as much symbol-pushing as possible. The current plan is for the final product to be an OER that serves as a companion to a traditional calculus textbook.



## Professional Development Update

Julie Gunkelman

AMATYC Professional Development Coordinator

[amatycpdc@gmail.com](mailto:amatycpdc@gmail.com)

One of the ways that AMATYC extends professional development beyond the conference is through the webinar series. Recordings of past webinars and webinar materials can be found via [bit.ly/amatyc-webinars](http://bit.ly/amatyc-webinars).

Michele Kelly from Macomb Community College kicked off the 2017 Webinar Series with "21 Ways to Boost an Adjunct." Even though the deadline is past for writing a proposal for the AMATYC conference, the webinar recording "How to Write a Winning Proposal for the AMATYC Conference" will serve as a great resource for future conferences. If you teach statistics and are looking for data, watch the recording of Lara Cleveland's webinar called "IPUMS Data: Real-World Data for Teaching" for steps to find data sets to use in your classes. In March Kathy Doyle demystified the course assessment process with her webinar titled "Course Assessment from Start to Finish. Lastly, if you are looking for ways to increase student discovery in your classes, check out the webinar "Incorporating Discovery into Developmental Mathematics" with George Woodbury.

AMATYC members may sign up for the webinars when they are announced. Please go to [amatyc.org](http://amatyc.org) to join or renew your AMATYC membership.

