

# NEWS

Opening Doors  
Through Mathematics



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## Susan S. Wood 2008 Mathematics Excellence Awardee

The AMATYC Mathematics Excellence (ME) Award is given every two years to an educator who has made outstanding contributions to mathematics or mathematics education at the two-year college. Susan S. Wood was presented with this prestigious award at the 34<sup>th</sup> AMATYC annual conference in Washington, DC. She was nominated for the award by VMATYC (Virginia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges).



Susan Wood (right) is honored by President Rikki Blair with the Mathematics Excellence Award. Photo taken by Robert Allen Strawn.

Susan's professional career includes 26 years in the classroom at J. Sargent Reynolds CC, multiple administrative assignments, activities to promote teacher preparation in two-year colleges, President of National Association of Community College Teacher Programs (NACCTEP), and currently as Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Effectiveness at the Virginia Community College System. The list of her professional activities is extensive, including service to VMATYC and to AMATYC, as Mid-Atlantic Vice President, President, and Project Director of the *Beyond Crossroads* initiative.

In the nomination materials for Susan, it was stated that she is a "TRUE EDUCATOR." The true educator is one who draws forward what is within reach of those he/she teaches and inspires. One student said "Susan does not view education as a job. It is a WAY OF LIFE." She has inspired others to be innovative and resourceful, to improve the education of mathematics students, teachers of mathematics students, and faculty in general.

This 2008 ME Award Committee was chaired by Judy Ackerman and included a representative from each of the 8 AMATYC regions (Kit Arbuckle, Jodi Cotten, Gregory Daubemire, Martha Goshaw, Linda Hoppe, Louise Olshan, Joanne Peeples, and Larisa Russell). The applications were received in late 2007 and ranked according to national reputation, leadership, presentations, awards and grants, publications, local and state professional activities, teaching expertise, and other contributions.

## 2009 AMATYC Conference in Las Vegas by Jim Matovina

Many of you are probably still reveling in the memories of the 34<sup>th</sup> AMATYC Conference. Washington, DC is truly a unique location, and Judy Williams and her team helped make the experience absolutely fabulous. Fabulous was a word heard several times in the description of the 2008 Conference. Thus, it is only fitting that the venue and attentions now shift to a city with that description on its landmark sign.

AMATYC's West Region and NevMATYC will be happy to welcome you to Las Vegas for the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference, November 12-15, 2009. Undoubtedly, more than a few of you will want to get your picture taken in front of world-famous "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign, which is located at the south end of the Strip. Beyond that, most of you are aware of the gaming industry, world-class shopping, heart-pounding shows and entertainment, and the wide variety of gourmet, casual and themed restaurant fare Vegas offers. What you may not be aware of are some of the exhilarating and even relaxing attractions that await those who dare to venture away from the world of pulsating neon lights, erupting volcanoes, and soaring fountains.

**The Fremont Street Experience:** Vegas past and Vegas future live side by side downtown, where the Fremont Street Experience, a spectacular \$70-million canopy of light and sound, envelopes the historic hotels and casinos along four blocks of Fremont Street. Like most things Vegas, downtown shows best at night, when the Fremont Street Experience lights up and street performers entertain the crowds.

**Grand Canyon:** Located 300 miles southeast of Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon offers breathtaking views of its towering, colorful cliffs and the ultimate escape from the city life. If that is too long of a drive to make in one afternoon, there are helicopter tours leaving Las Vegas a few times each day.

**Lake Mead:** The largest man-made lake in the United States, Lake Mead is a short drive from Las Vegas. Of course, Lake Mead would not be there

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## Looking to the Future... The AMATYC Climate Survey We are Listening to YOU!

Rikki Blair  
Lakeland CC ♦ Kirtland, OH

Reflecting on AMATYC's accomplishments in 2008 includes thoughts of a great annual conference in November, terrific summer workshops and institutes, planning for the first AMATYC webinar in February 2009, institutionalization of AMATYC Project ACCCESS, a new academic committee focusing on research in two-year college mathematics, and other successful initiatives. It has indeed been a very busy and productive year.

Even after a successful year, it is essential that an organization looks to the future. In an effort to put the messages from *Beyond Crossroads* of ongoing assessment and continuous improvement into action, an online AMATYC Climate Survey was sent to current and lapsed AMATYC members in October 2008. The survey included questions about current and potential projects, publications, services, and operations. The responses have and will be used by the AMATYC Board and other leaders to guide the development of new projects, improve current ones, and help chart the direction for AMATYC in 2009.

The preliminary report of the survey responses was discussed at the 2008 Fall Board meeting. Almost 800 responders completed the AMATYC Climate Survey (72% members, 21.8% non-members, and rest were not sure). Of the members, 40.7% have been members from 1-5 years and 21.8% have been members from 6-10 years. Of the nonmembers, 58% had been members from 1-5 years and 20.3% had been members from 6-10 years.

Several activities suggested in the survey responses are already underway or put into place after review of the report. A committee has been formed to explore the possibility of offering non-credit courses, credit courses, and additional webinars to our members. If the pilot AMATYC webinar in Statistics to be held February 26, 2009, is successful, additional webinars will be considered and planned.

With the recommendations of an AMATYC Journal Task Force and the responses of the Climate Survey, plans to retire *The AMATYC Review* and move forward with the new AMATYC journal are in place. The new journal will have a colorful, magazine format and content will focus on classroom instruction. The "Name the Journal Contest" had over 100 entries and a committee will soon recommend a name for the new journal.

The following is a brief summary of some of the other responses of the Climate Survey:

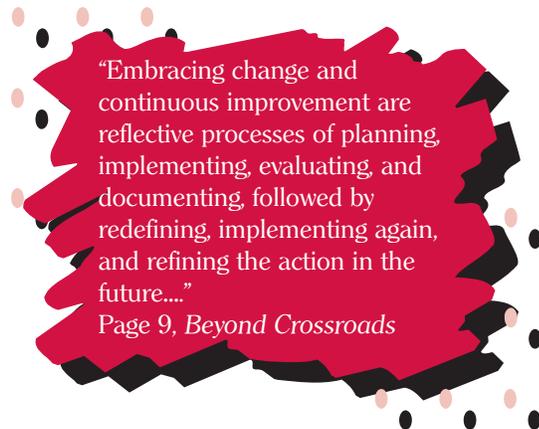
- Of the 762 responders who answered the question, 43.2% strongly agreed and 40% agreed that AMATYC helps them meet other faculty.
- Of the 761 responders who answered the question, 53.1% agreed and 23.7% were neutral on whether AMATYC improves their classroom performance.
- Of the 755 responders who answered the question, 42.1% agreed and 31.3% strongly agreed that AMATYC is a well-run organization.
- 83.9% of the 663 responders answered that AMATYC should offer web seminars.
- 63.5% of the 707 responders answered that AMATYC should offer credit coursework through accredited universities. The topics favored were as follows: Integrating active learning into the classroom (77.2%); Teaching online courses effectively (72.1%); Teaching developmental mathematics (67.4%); Mathematics software (67.4%); History of Mathematics (58.2%); and Teaching in context (56.2%).
- 76.3% of 699 responders answered that AMATYC should offer non-credit coursework. The topics favored were as follows: Integrating active learning into the classroom (80.8%); Teaching online courses effectively (70.5%); Teaching developmental mathematics (68.5%); Mathematics software (66.6%); Teaching in context (61.4%); and History of Mathematics (60.3%).

- 78.1% of 722 responders answered that they have not been an AMATYC academic committee member. 70.3% of 677 responders answered that they do not attend academic committee meetings at the AMATYC conference.
- Topics favored for the new journal publication replacing *The AMATYC Review* were as follows: General topics on pedagogy and classroom structure (73.4%); Column on websites and publications of interest (71%); Developmental mathematics courses (61.8%); Column on math problems or tasks (60.3%).

In addition to specific questions and answers, the responses to the free response questions at the end of the survey that were answered by 146 to 234 responders will be summarized in the online survey report. The online report will also categorize the 720 responses for joining AMATYC, as well as the 536 responses to AMATYC's greatest strengths and the 441 responses to AMATYC's greatest weaknesses.

The website URL of the 2008 Climate Survey results is [www.amatyc.org/Surveys/climate-survey2008.pdf](http://www.amatyc.org/Surveys/climate-survey2008.pdf). The above summary and the summary of the free responses are posted there.

AMATYC is YOUR organization and the leadership is always interested in hearing from YOU! Don't hesitate to contact Rikki Blair, [richelle.blair@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richelle.blair@sbcglobal.net), or any other AMATYC officer or leader to share your ideas and suggestions for new or revised activities. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you in Las Vegas in November 2009.



"Embracing change and continuous improvement are reflective processes of planning, implementing, evaluating, and documenting, followed by redefining, implementing again, and refining the action in the future...."  
Page 9, *Beyond Crossroads*

## AMATYC Affiliate Website Director Appointed

Joyce Friske was recently appointed AMATYC Affiliate Website Director by the AMATYC Board. Friske teaches at Tulsa CC and has been active in OkMATYC, serving as OkMATYC Website Designer and Manager. She also designed and maintained the 2007 Southwest Regional Conference website. In AMATYC, Joyce has served in many positions including delegate, nominating committee member, and Southwest VP. She has extensive experience training teachers to use technology and looks forward to assisting the affiliates with their websites. One of her first goals is to design a template that interested affiliates may use for their site. Joyce looks forward to hearing from affiliates at [JFriske@tulsacc.edu](mailto:JFriske@tulsacc.edu).



## New Vice President for the Central Region Appointed

Joe Gallegos is the new VP for the Central Region. Joe has a Masters in Mathematics from the University of Utah and one year of a Ph.D. program from Arizona State University. He took a job teaching at San Antonio College after his son was born. He has been at Salt Lake CC since 1996 and is currently serving as Math Department Chair. Joe has been involved in AMATYC for many years, including being the Local Events Coordinator for the 2003 Salt Lake City conference. Joe is excited about being the VP for the Central Region.



## Editor for New AMATYC Journal Appointed

At the 2008 Fall Board Meeting Pete Wildman was appointed editor of the new AMATYC journal. Pete is currently an instructor of mathematics at Spokane Falls CC in Spokane, WA. Prior to moving to Spokane, Pete spent 16 years as an instructor of mathematics and department head at Casper College in Casper, WY. He has served AMATYC in a number of capacities, most recently as Central Region Vice President from 2005 to 2008. Pete has been married to Karen Wildman for the past 24 years and has three wonderful sons, Daniel, Andrew and Matthew. He and his family enjoy the many outdoor opportunities available in the great Pacific Northwest.



He is particularly excited to work on the new journal and hopes that it can be a very valuable resource for all AMATYC members. But in order to make this happen he needs your help! The editor and the editorial panel of the new journal are looking for articles. They are especially interested in articles that involve useful activities in developmental mathematics, teacher preparation, and technical mathematics. There will be a section in the new journal dedicated to great classroom-ready activities and your submissions are strongly encouraged. Did you present at the 2008 AMATYC Conference in Washington, DC? If you did, then why not share your expertise with everyone who was not able to attend by submitting an article. If you have never submitted an article before, do not worry; contact Pete and he will help you prepare your article for submission. Please submit your articles or direct any questions to Pete at [petewildman@comcast.net](mailto:petewildman@comcast.net) or [peterw@spokanefalls.edu](mailto:peterw@spokanefalls.edu). Together we can make the new AMATYC journal great!

>>Las Vegas, Continued from page 1

if it weren't for Hoover Dam, an incredible marvel of engineering.

**Mount Charleston:** Popular for its crisp, fresh breezes and various hiking trails, Mount Charleston is only a short 45-minute drive from the city. A part of the Spring Mountain Range, Mount Charleston rises as high as 12,000 feet in elevation. Wildflowers, waterfalls and a variety of trees can be seen here. Furthermore, while high above the city, you can even hit the slopes at the Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort.

**Red Rock Canyon:** Located only 15 miles west of Las Vegas, Red Rock Canyon offers a quiet, secluded escape filled with greenery, unique plants, petroglyphs, wild animals and much more. Inside the Red Rock Canyon, the 520-acre Spring Mountain Ranch is a perfect place to have a picnic. The sprawling green pastures, quietness and fresh air make it a pleasant area to relax and have lunch. Inside the ranch house, tour guides are available to walk visitors through and share remarkable history of former residents including Howard Hughes.

**Valley of Fire:** Don't forget your camera! Valley of Fire offers radiant views of its fiery red sandstone rock formations. Visitors can climb and explore the 35,000-acre park and capture close-up views of this spectacular wonder. Valley of Fire is located about 50 miles north of Las Vegas.

According to statistics from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, since Las Vegas is truly a 24-hour city, conferences in Las Vegas are actually better attended than in most other cities. So, whether coming to town for only the conference, planning to conduct some research in probability theory, or hoping to experience some of the activities away from the glitz and glamour, be sure to maintain HIGH EXPECTATIONS while visiting one of the greatest cities in the world.

Whether you are a seasoned presenter or have never presented before but have always wanted to, AMATYC is interested in your proposal. Please submit a proposal for the AMATYC annual conference in Las Vegas. The proposal form can be found at [www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2009LV/](http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2009LV/). The **deadline is February 1, 2009**, so you haven't much time. Don't miss this opportunity.



# Achieve, Inc. and the American Diploma Project

An Opinion by Rob Kimball

The following is Rob's opinion and not necessarily that of AMATYC.

Promoting more mathematics for more high school students is a good thing!

Achieve, Inc., created in 1996 by the nation's governors and corporate leaders, hopes to raise academic standards and graduation requirements to narrow what has been called the *Expectations Gap* - the perceived gap between what colleges and industry expects from high school graduates and what high schools deliver.

In 2005, Achieve launched the American Diploma Project (ADP) Network. More than 30 states are now part of ADP. The thrust in mathematics has been to promote *Algebra II for All*. Studies have shown that those who took Algebra II were more prepared for either work or college. There are a lot of reasons for that! However, the end result, more students taking more mathematics, should be a good thing.

As a result, many states are now including Algebra II as a graduation requirement. ADP has created benchmarks for Algebra II and a national exam designed to promote and measure those benchmarks. Promoting higher standards with nationally accepted benchmarks is a good thing!

So, what is the problem?

The initial benchmarks for Algebra II were traditional, including many of the more advanced algebraic topics customarily found in the course - as if every student was going to take calculus. However, we know that most students in Algebra II do not go on to take Calculus. (CBMS 2005) Mathematics faculty from universities helped create those initial benchmarks so it is no wonder that they were traditional and mostly skill-based, leading to Calculus.

Later, after the initial benchmarks were drafted, another consulting team suggested that *Algebra II for All* should include other topics beyond algebra and that the emphasis on advanced algebra be diminished. The hope is that non-STEM students will take *Algebra II for All* and a fourth course in high school as well. The advice given to ADP on many occasions has been to include topics in probability, statistics, graph theory, and mathematics of finance, at the expense of many traditional topics in algebra that belong more in pre-calculus than in *Algebra II for All*.

The end-of-course Algebra II test has been written and tested. ADP, partnering with Pearson, has written items for an Algebra I end-of-course test as well. That test was field-tested in 2008.

The items in the end-of-course tests cannot be only skill-based, they must reflect the effort to promote *reasoning* and *sense making* endorsed by NCTM and AMATYC. Whether the student goes to a two- or four-year school, courses at the post secondary level will require that the student use critical thinking skills to solve non-routine problems. Solving problems within the context of a realistic scenario is expected at the post-secondary level. (See the MAA's *Guidelines for College Algebra* and *Voices of the Partner Disciplines*.) Those skills should be developed in high school and hence both Algebra I and Algebra II must include problems set in realistic contexts.

The content of *Algebra II for All* should not be the traditional pre-calculus-like course most of us saw in high school. Rather, it should be a rich course that demonstrates the many applications of mathematics; not just in engineering, but in programming, business, the biological sciences, and in medical fields. All students need to know more about statistics and the mathematics of finance and *Algebra II for All* should include those important topics.

Finally, the *CUPM Guide* (MAA, 2004), the *Curriculum Foundations Project* (MAA, 2003), and *Beyond Crossroads* (AMATYC, 2006) call for mathematics faculty to utilize spreadsheets. This useful technology, seen much more in business and industry than calculators, should be promoted in the benchmarks and tests.

As the Project Director for AMATYC's *Right Stuff*, I have been around the country talking to faculty about the most appropriate mathematics for all students. There is clearly not consensus on a clear vision. That makes the direction taken by ADP even more crucial.

Read the documents mentioned above. Know what is going on in your state. Be a part of the discussion. That would be a good thing too.



## Beverly Parnell

WAMATYC offers its sympathy and condolences to the friends, family, and colleagues of Beverly Parnell,



who passed away on October 11 at the age of 64. Bev had just completed her term as WAMATYC's president last spring. She came to Yakima Valley CC in 1992 after twelve years with the Gallup, NM school district, beginning as the district math specialist and finishing with five years as a high school principal and athletic director. At YVCC, she designed and created the college's Math Center, enlisting the support of her colleagues to build it into the resounding success that it is today.

Bev thoroughly enjoyed working with students to overcome their difficulties and gain confidence from their success. She was most proud of struggling students who would ask for help, work hard, succeed, and then apply their new-found self-confidence not just in mathematics but in other areas as well. Some of her students made the effort to leave condolence notes for her. One said that "she was a wonderful math teacher" and noted how much Bev had impacted her life. Another said, "Mrs. Parnell will forever be my very favorite instructor, I had the honor of being her student. She has truly changed my life forever."

Bev also gave numerous presentations at state, regional, and national conferences, including several workshops at AMATYC conferences, where her goal was to give participants not only broad, long-term ideas, but also specific things they could use in class on Monday.

Bev is survived by her husband of 46 years, Jim; two daughters, Debi and Julie; and one granddaughter, Samantha. A scholarship in her memory is being arranged through the YVCC Foundation, which may be contacted via [www.yvcc.edu/about/foundation/](http://www.yvcc.edu/about/foundation/).



## Ohio Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges

As an advocate for mathematics educators at the two-year college level, OhioMATYC was founded in Columbus, Ohio on April 28, 1973.

The current organizational structure has an executive committee which consists of a President, Past-President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, Historian, and Newsletter Editor. The last two positions are appointed by the president. There is currently a proposal which will be voted on at the spring 2009 meeting to create a third appointed position of an Awards Coordinator.

Recent changes have established a schedule for OhioMATYC meetings as follows. Each fall, at the AMATYC annual conference, the Executive Committee will conduct a meeting, open to the membership, to do organizational business. Each spring, OhioMATYC hosts a two-day conference for the entire membership. In even-numbered years this conference is held at one of Ohio's state parks. This type of venue often encourages members to bring family and extend their stay beyond the conference. Themes for these conferences vary widely and represent an effort to appeal to the diverse interest of the membership. In odd years the conference is held at one of our college campuses and consists of a Teachers Teaching with Technology (T<sup>3</sup>) Regional Conference. Hosting these events is contingent upon grant funding from Texas Instruments and typically attracts a large number of attendees beyond just OhioMATYC members.

OhioMATYC publishes a semiannual newsletter that is mailed to all members, which currently total approximately 150, as well as the mathematics department chairs of all of Ohio's two-year colleges. Additional communications to the membership occur through emails or supplemental mailings.

For many years OhioMATYC has annually offered three student scholarships to qualified students. Currently these are a minimum of \$300 each with some increased to \$400 for a sponsored memorial scholarship. OhioMATYC biannually gives a distinguished service award and a distinguished teaching award. The organization is a regular contributor in dollars and participants to the Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition (OMSC) and regularly contributes to AMATYC's hospitality room for the annual conference.

More information can be found at [www.terra.edu/ohiomatyc/](http://www.terra.edu/ohiomatyc/).

## Arizona Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

ArizMATYC celebrated its twenty-fifth year in 2008. The organization grew out of the Arizona Mathematics Consortium. The Consortium began in the late sixties as an NSF funded group to discuss articulation among the three state universities and five community colleges. Articulation is still an important part of ArizMATYC's semi-annual meetings, which now include five four-year schools and 10 community college districts.

After attending several AMATYC meetings, Ed Chandler, Betty Field and others organized and chartered the affiliate in 1983. Naming the organization presented some problems as it definitely did not want to be AZmatyc. The group who wanted to pronounce it a-RIZ-ma-tyc (as in arithmetic) lost out to the group promoting AR-iz-mat-yc. Because of the roots in the Consortium, meeting agendas often reflected just talking about improving post-secondary mathematics education in Arizona. The meetings are occasionally more highly structured now that every fourth meeting is held jointly with the Southwest Section of the MAA.

Perhaps the most unique feature of all the meetings is the "Campus Reports," where colleges and universities share changes at their colleges both mathematically and culturally mentioning such things as new textbook adoptions, changes in the administration, or new construction on campus.

Among the highlights from the past, they had the privilege of organizing the second AMATYC Southwest Regional Meeting on the campus of Northern Arizona University in 1997. The conference featured sleeping in the dorm, eating in the dining hall, and, as part of the registration fee, a bus trip to the Grand Canyon to watch the sunset. For the third AMATYC Southwest Regional Meeting in 2007 in San Antonio, their own Dan Russow served as the Exhibits Chair, but all really remember the celebration that night when the San Antonio Spurs won the NBA Championship.

The biggest point of pride is being the sponsoring affiliate for AMATYC's Twentieth-Eighth "Perfect" Conference in Phoenix in 2002 under the leadership of Anne Dudley. Highlights included the Night with the Stars at the Arizona Science Center and the breakfast centerpieces made out of mugs from colleges throughout the Southwest Region.

### JOIN AMATYC

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### Focus on Affiliates

Would you like your affiliate to be a part of the Focus on Affiliate series? This is your chance to tell other affiliates what innovative things you are doing or look for help on new things. If you are interested, please contact Kathryn Kozak, AMATYC News editor, [kathryn.kozak@coconino.edu](mailto:kathryn.kozak@coconino.edu).

# AMATYC PROJECT ACCESS

by Karen Gaines

Forty-six energetic Project ACCESS Fellows attended special workshops at this year's conference in Washington, DC. Cohort 4 Fellows were completing their ACCESS activities, while Cohort 5 Fellows were just beginning their experience.

This year ACCESS Alumni from Cohorts 1-3 served as presidors and presenters for the ACCESS workshops. Special thanks go out to Barbie Steinhurst, Wendy O'Hanlon, Brigitte Martineau, Rob Eby, Amber Rust, Laura Watkins, Vera Hu-Hyneman, Jeff Downs, and Lalitha Subramanian.

As has been true in the past, the Fellows were treated to several wonderful workshops presented by AMATYC speakers. Special thanks go out to Ana Jimenez, Kendall Jacobs, Laura Watkins, Anne Dudley, Nancy Sattler, Mary Beth Orrange, Vera Hu-Hyneman, Pat McKeague, Diana Hestwood, Pete Wildman, Bill Thomas, Janet Teeguarden, Fred Peskoff, and Rob Eby for presenting.

Over this year the Cohort 5 Fellows will be working on special projects and attending a local AMATYC, MAA, or NCTM conference. They will complete their Fellowship year at the conference in Las Vegas this year. A new Cohort will join them and begin their activities at that conference. For details on how to apply, check out the AMATYC website early next year for details.



Cohort 4

**Row 1** - Jennifer Polm, Janine Termine, Kathleen Speicher, Heather Foes, Heather Bubnick, Carol Tracy; **Row 2** - Anne Praderas, William Rolli, Mark Marino, Lisa Williams, Mark Monroe, Ben King, Kira Heater; **Row 3** - Deb Olson, John Bakken, Lauren Patson, Elena Dilai, Annette Benbow; **Row 4** - Marsha Pease, Roy Simpson, Evan Evans, Sandra Wildfeuer



Cohort 5

**Row 1** - Ron McKay, Elizabeth Cunningham, Crystal Ravenwood, Nicolle Lee, Teresa Collins, Lee Singleton, Aaron Altose; **Row 2** - Joel Gutierrez, Troy Seffrood, Nancy Nichols, Amy Tankersley, Megan Goodwin, Mary Sullivan, Roger Davidson; **Row 3** - Katrina Keating, Tina Lee, Meredith Watts; **Row 4** - Teresa Foley, Pete Surgent, Frank Monterisi, Kevin McCandless, Thomas Wells, Annette Cook, Katerina Vishnyakova

Because of  
Project ACCESS...

... I value the opportunities and community that AMATYC and MAA offer as professional organizations, AND I know how to get involved. I also made great friends who continue to share teaching ideas and discussions related to our work via the list-serve. What an awesome program!

- Amy Adams (Project ACCESS Cohort 3)

...I have a network of colleagues across the nation.

...I was able to meet and learn from some of the greatest educators in the country in the field of mathematics.

...I gained tremendous confidence and a renewed sense of purpose in my career, as well as my life.

- James Giumarra (Project ACCESS Cohort 3)

...I have amazing colleagues around the nation that are excited to exchange ideas and to work to improve their students, themselves, and the entire mathematics community.

- Lauren Patson (Project ACCESS Cohort 4)

## Project ACCESS: Not Just Another Acronym “A Fellow’s Reflection”

by Annette Cook, Shelton State CC

Whew! I am exhausted!! I am at the airport, excited and ready to see my family after a jam-packed time at my first AMATYC conference in Washington, DC. As I sit here and watch the breath-taking colors of a new dawn fill the autumn sky, I am reminded of the wealth of knowledge I harvested as a fellow in Cohort 5 of Project ACCESS. Just as the sunrise brings light and radiance, a symphony of colors, and fresh opportunities to this cold morning, my experience at Project ACCESS these past few days has given me new light on this association, a symphony of techniques and activities to try, and a fresh outlook with limitless opportunities. To sum it up: AMATYC’s Project ACCESS has been monumentally motivating and inspiring to me.

When I applied to become a Project ACCESS fellow, I really had no idea what to expect, if selected. The information in the AMATYC newsletter sounded like it would be a worthwhile endeavor, but nobody at my campus was familiar with ACCESS, or really active in AMATYC. That is about to change! I can’t wait to share with my colleagues the awesome opportunities that are available through active participation in this association. I have been to several conferences through another math teacher organization, but none compare to what I experienced with my fellow two-year college instructors. The energy and enthusiasm were incredible, and the fact that we are all teaching the same level made talking to *anybody* a golden opportunity to glean something of value.

Our ACCESS time together in Washington was intense. We were together for more than 25 hours, excluding general AMATYC sessions. We heard a variety of speakers and contributed our own “things that work.” Cohort 4 fellows shared their projects of the past year and were like a big brother/big sister group of cheerleaders, warning us of how demanding it would be, but leaving no doubt that it would be worth the effort. They were so right. I have a plethora of ideas, specific activities, and new techniques to incorporate. In fact, I have so much that it can be overwhelming and difficult to know where to start. This is why the project portion of ACCESS is so important. Knowing we have a required project makes us focus on one specific area that we want to explore, relative to our own situation. How neat is that? Being “required” to do something we really want to do anyway. (Sounds like a good excuse to pursue that tangent you’ve been intrigued by.)

The other part of ACCESS that has me as fired up as the sunrise is the camaraderie we share. I feel that I can ask any cohort for a suggestion, an idea, or just a “how do you do this” and they will gladly answer. Knowing that I can just “click” and survey colleagues from across the country is empowering. I was also able to make acquaintance with fellows from cohorts 1 through 3, another valuable benefit. ACCESS gives each fellow a connection with every other fellow. This bond made my first AMATYC conference more enjoyable and helped me feel more a part of the big picture, especially since I was the only person from my college at the gathering.

Being a part of Cohort 5 of Project ACCESS has already proven to be *the most valuable* professional development experience in my 25 year career, and I’ve been through a lot of professional development! I spent most of these years teaching high school so that I could have the same school day and school calendar as my children. When they grew older, I applied for a full-time position at our local two-year college and I am now living my dream! I love it! Currently in my third year at the college level, I met the requirement for Project ACCESS fellowship and I could not be more grateful for the opportunity. I look forward to the next year of collaboration with my fellows, and many years of active participation and opportunities to grow professionally through AMATYC.

Special thanks goes to Karen Gaines and those who have worked in past years to make Project ACCESS available. Your efforts are sincerely appreciated. As a fellow, I felt comfortable asking questions, making suggestions, and being completely honest in my evaluations of each session we attended. This is due to the professionalism and genuine interest of Karen and others. Experiencing this conference in DC, a city nationally known for its many acronyms, it became clear that ACCESS is more than a catch phrase. It is a program that produces monumental results.

When interviewed for the NEMATYC newsletter, Amy Adams, 2006-07 ACCESS Fellow, said “The Project ACCESS program was great. We had workshops and presentations designed especially for instructors new to their two-year college teaching careers. ...”

I came away with a broadened perspective - that teaching is an ever-evolving practice, and there is always a way to rejuvenate your class to make it better for students. ...

(The project has made me a better teacher) but more importantly, it has given me the network and resources to continue to become a teacher, beyond the scope of the fellowship.”

“Small minds discuss persons.  
Average minds discuss events.  
Great minds discuss ideas.  
Really great minds discuss mathematics.” - unknown

The **AMATYC News** is the official newsletter of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges and is published five times per year in January, March, May, August, and October. Your articles, announcements, comments, and letters to the Editor are welcome. Submit all materials by November 27, February 1, April 1, June 1, and August 15 for the respective issues.

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# Conference Highlights from the Local Events Committee

by Judy Williams

Thirty-five members of the Local Events Committee (LEC) spent three years

preparing for your arrival in Washington. The LEC are grateful for the wise guidance of Conference Coordinator Margie Hobbs as well as the advice of Incoming Coordinator Keven Dock-



Freeman Hrabowski during his keynote speech about the changes in technology and demographics in the 21<sup>st</sup> century during the Thursday Opening Session. *Photo taken by Robert Allen Strawn.*

ter. Ann Loving created a welcoming atmosphere in the Hospitality Room, where we were able to serve lots of beverages and fresh fruit, plus a few pastries, thanks to the generosity of



Rikki presents Presidential Awards to Sadie Bragg and Alice Kaseberg for their contributions to Project ACCESS. *Photo taken by Robert Allen Strawn.*

our affiliates. VMATYC's donation allowed us to budget for a continental breakfast in the Friends & Family Session and make all those red, white, and blue favor bags full of goodies. Several families and individuals arrived



At the MAA Headquarters reception Friday evening, many looked at the brick donated by AMATYC. *Photo taken by Sandie Dashiell.*

Thursday for Fuzzy Slippers Night where a spirited game of mathematical password ending the evening. Friday night viewers opted for several episodes of Season 1 of *Numbers* during which they laughed heartily at all the math and physics jokes.

The Friends & Family Session served information along with a light breakfast. Twenty-five guests learned about Mount Vernon from Judy Ackerman, the aquarium in the Commerce Building from Michael Ackerman, the shuttle to the addition to the Air and Space Museum near Dulles Airport from Sam Olshan, and Plaza Lauri-



LEC members John Gallo and Charlotte Newsom visit with Tidewater CC colleagues Mike Kirby and Elsie Harris. *Photo taken by Sandie Dashiell.*



Wanda Garner registers one of the presenters on the program of the conference. *Photo taken by Judy Williams.*

elle, Andy Jones' favorite restaurant. Laurielle was so popular on Saturday that one AMATYC group chose to pass on the two and a half hour wait for a table and discovered Rosemary's Thyme, a Mediterranean Bistro, on the other end of the block. Each evening many of you took advantage of all the dining spots within blocks of the Hilton. Breaking bread with friends, old and new, is always a conference highlight.



Liz Teles, NSF liaison with two-year schools, chats with Southwest VP Jean Woody in the Professional Networking/Hospitality Room. The room, with its patriotic themed decorations, was a popular place to stop by for a cup of coffee or a chat with friends. *Photo taken by Judy Williams.*

Another popular place was the Internet Café, with computers furnished by The College of Southern Maryland. Thanks to Steve Hundert and his coworkers for setting up and maintain-

ing the room. We also had a classroom of computers set up by Montgomery College where you were able to have some great hands-on sessions.

On Friday afternoon, many took a short walk down Connecticut Ave to attend the MAA reception. They were warmly welcomed to the lovely



Steve Blasberg presents Ruth Collins with the Faculty Mathematics League award for the Mid-Atlantic region, which won the team competition. *Photo taken by Robert Allen Strawn.*

carriage house. Highlights of the tour were the winding staircase and the "AMATYC" brick in the walk. It was a nice opportunity to leave the hotel and spend time socializing with colleagues.

While the Local Events Committee provided the Washingtonian atmosphere for the conference, the Program Committee created a variety of mathematical opportunities. Keynote Speaker Freeman Hrabowski, President of The University of Maryland, Baltimore County, shared not



Michael Ackerman, Judy Ackerman, and Anne Dudley together at the president's reception on Wednesday night. *Photo taken by Ruth Collins.*



Michael Greenwich from Nevada and Sandie Dashiell from Virginia share a moment at the MAA reception on Friday night. *Photo taken by Christy Hewett.*

only scholarly information but many personal stories that touched all of his listeners in Thursday's opening session. On Friday, George Boggs, President of the American Association of Community Colleges discussed how we are meeting challenges to student success while Larry Faulkner shared findings from the National Mathematics Advisory Panel.

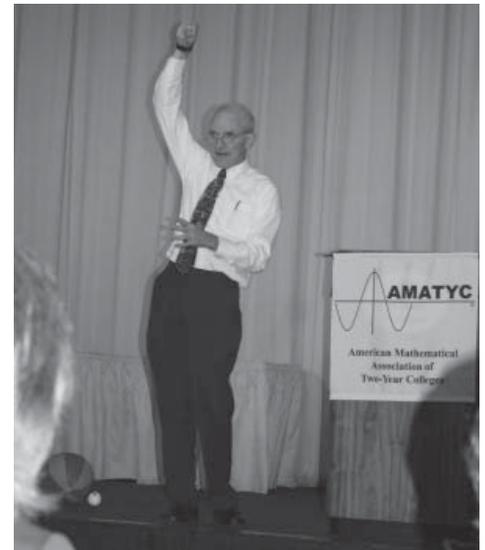
From Featured Speaker Abigail James attendees heard about the different ways females and males learn mathematics. John Adam showed us that we need to keep our eyes open for mathematical patterns in nature.



John Adam, one of the featured speakers, during his talk on Saturday about mathematical patterns in nature. *Photo taken by Sandie Dashiell.*

After David Wright finished his talk at the Saturday Awards Breakfast, we knew how a bed of nails and a leaf blower are related to mathematics as well as how the parts of that 7 in 1 survival tool can be used to teach mathematical concepts. Each of you

learned much from the sessions you attended, from visiting the vendors in the exhibits area, and from studying



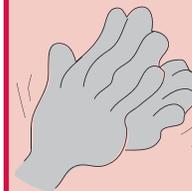
David Wright demonstrating at the Saturday Breakfast talk one of the many uses of the 7 in 1 device that was part of the breakfast gifts. *Photo taken by Ruth Collins.*

the posters displayed Thursday afternoon, in addition to just sharing ideas with colleagues in informal conversations.

When you reflect on your time in Washington, DC, November 20-23, 2008, we hope that your memories are indeed monumental. And we have high expectations of seeing you again next year in the West!

## Kudos...

As of December 7, of the 311 conference evaluations submitted, 89 attendees took the time to recognize those persons who were especially helpful to them either before or during the conference. Although there were too many persons mentioned to list, Judy Williams and all the committee members in the red vests who were available for directions and/or general conversation were mentioned frequently. If you



submitted your conference evaluation, thank you for taking the time to help the conference team plan for next year's conference.

## Highlights of the 2008 AMATYC Fall Board Meeting

by Irene Doo

The AMATYC Executive Board met at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC from November 16-19, 2008. During the meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Approved two summer institutes for 2009: “GAISEing Beyond the Crossroads” in Boulder, CO, and “Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum” in Lander, WY.
- Approved the following events at the 2009 conference in Las Vegas:
  - Four themed sessions: “Math on the Web,” “Math for Biotechnology & the Life Sciences,” “Teacher Preparation,” and “Placement and Assessment”
  - Developmental Mathematics Symposium.
  - Social event for first-time conference attendees.
- Established an emerging issue academic committee titled Research in Mathematics Education at Two-Year Colleges (RMETYC).
- Approved the concept of the theme and logo for the 2010 conference in Boston.
- Approved the establishment of an email mailing list to encourage electronic communication among delegates.
- Made the following appointments
  - 2010 Boston Local Arrangement Committee
  - **April Strom** as chair of the Research in Mathematics Education at Two-Year Colleges emerging issues academic committee
  - **Pete Wildman** as editor of the new journal
  - **Maria Andersen** as Traveling Workshop Director of the Technology strand
  - **Joyce Friske** as Affiliate Website Director
  - **Linda Tonolli, Joe Browne, Barbara Illowsky, Jason Whitt, and Karen Watson** as members of the journal review panel
- Reappointed **Karen Gaines** as AMATYC Project ACCESS Coordinator.
- Approved a “Bring-a-Friend” membership campaign to reward AMATYC members who encourage new AMATYC members to join the organization.
- Approved a change in name of the Innovative Pedagogy Strategies Committee to the Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee.

## Report on the Delegate Assembly 2008

by Irene Doo

The Delegate Assembly met on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. During the meeting, the delegates received reports from the President, Treasurer, Nominating Committee, AMATYC Foundation, Project ACCESS, and AMATYC Project ACCESS. President-Elect Rob Farinelli provided delegates with an update on strategic planning, and on the conference sites for 2009 through 2015. The delegates also heard reports on the Math Across the Community College Curriculum (MAC<sup>3</sup>) grant, the grant for *The Right Stuff: Appropriate Mathematics for All Students*, the *Beyond Crossroads* summer workshops, and the Combining the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Delegates voted to approve a motion to amend the Delegate Assembly Minutes Approval Procedure.

## More Kudos...

The entire group from Washington, DC was very helpful in making the conference a great success for me. I have been impressed with how friendly the AMATYC officers and staff have been throughout my several years of attendance.

The people at the registration booth—they were wonderful and helpful the entire time. Thanks!

Project ACCESS is a fabulous program and should be promoted more. Thank you to Sadie Bragg, Alice, Karen, and all the ACCESS folks!

It is wonderful to renew friendships!

The opening session speaker was outstanding as were the featured speakers! Overall this was one of the best conferences I have been to. Every session was great and the city was fabulous.

It was my first time to attend and I loved it. All of my sessions were great.

Thank you for another great conference. The location was great. The sessions were very informational and helpful (and very interesting). I was inspired and very impressed! I am very glad to be a part of AMATYC.

The tote bags and all the freebies were awesome. This was my first conference and I definitely want to come back.



Thank you for all your hard work - it definitely showed and the conference couldn't have gone better for me.

Thank you to Margie Hobbs for her 13 years as Conference Coordinator. But don't worry about future conferences, Margie has passed her knowledge on to Keven Dockter, the new conference coordinator.



## Research in Mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges (RMETYC): A New and Monumental Committee!

by April D. Strom

It's official! The AMATYC Board approved a new emerging issues academic committee during the 2008 AMATYC Conference in Washington, DC. April Strom, Scottsdale CC, is pleased to serve as the Chair of this committee for 2008-2010.

The purpose of this committee is two-fold: 1) To foster research on learning and teaching mathematics at two-year colleges and 2) To provide support, mentorships and discussion forums for faculty interested in mathematics education research. It will also encourage the dissemination of findings and results emerging from research conducted with two-year colleges. Furthermore, RMETYC will provide organizational support to continuously develop and mentor faculty researchers as they enter the field of scholarship and teaching.

AMATYC's *Beyond Crossroads* (2006) calls for infusing research into practice where curriculum and instruction are enhanced by research findings in mathematics education. Many two-year college faculty in mathematics across the nation are conducting and participating in research projects devoted to improving student learning and mathematics instruction. It is time to join together to take the next steps for implementing research as a way to improve student learning.

You have a chance to make a difference in the college classrooms by joining together to share research knowledge and create pathways for putting research into practice, specifically at the two-year college level. If classroom research is an interest of yours, you are encouraged to join the committee. For more committee information and to become an RMETYC member, please view the website at [research.amatyc.org](http://research.amatyc.org) or contact April Strom, [april.strom@sccmail.maricopa.edu](mailto:april.strom@sccmail.maricopa.edu).

## Placement and Assessment Report from the Washington, DC Conference: Working Together for Accreditation

by Connie Buller

Discussions were lively at the two committee meetings held during the Washington, DC conference. One topic was course and program assessment.

In the past, accreditation visits often required well-written papers, but little documentation of assessment. Today's visits seem to need numbers. This can be challenging to colleges familiar with the old ways. *Beyond Crossroads*, a document found on the AMATYC website, provides many resources. Accreditation reports from individual colleges are public documents, but it would be helpful to have them together. In implementing good standards, a time of reflection is also part of the cycle, and colleges are asked to consider whether changes are needed in the work toward renewing accreditation. At the second meeting in Washington, DC, it was agreed to make the following request of our membership:

"If your school has recently gone through the accreditation process, it would be helpful to have the link to your review, particularly the chapter on assessment."

Jim Ham, [jaham@delta.edu](mailto:jaham@delta.edu), the website coordinator for the PAC committee, has agreed to post these links on the PAC website [placement.amatyc.org](http://placement.amatyc.org).

In addition to helping colleagues new to the process, these links should make it easier for those doing broader community college research.

For colleagues who weren't able to attend the Washington, DC conference, handouts from this and prior PAC themed sessions, with email contacts, are also posted on the PAC website.

## AMATYC's Online Resource

by George Alexander

The Online Resource is a collection of web links related to a variety of mathematical topics, brought to members as a service of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. The purpose of the site is to give educators and students a starting point in searching for resources on the Internet. The Online Resource pages consist of 33 category pages, each with perhaps 15 to 50 Internet resource links for mathematics and mathematics instruction. Topics range from course content areas (such as Algebra or Calculus) to technologies to fun and games. The Online Resource site is hosted on a subdomain, [or.amatyc.org](http://or.amatyc.org), of the main AMATYC site. The web pages are maintained by George Alexander, the Online Resource Director for AMATYC.

The Online Resource pages were redesigned this past summer to remove outdated menu lists that referred to pages elsewhere on the AMATYC site. Following the redesign of the AMATYC site, many of these links were no longer valid, and it became clear that it was inefficient to have so much dependency on the format of the AMATYC home page. The new pages are now more self-sufficient and have their own menu of categories that shows in a frame on the left side of the page as you navigate through the links. So it is very easy to move from one link or category to another. The "A to Z Category List" also helps users to find what they are interested in.

Due to the rapidly changing nature of the Internet, the Online Resource is constantly seeking updates with new links and corrections as existing links change. To suggest new sites for inclusion, to report bad links, or to comment on any of the listings in this resource, please use the feedback form found on the Online Resource homepage. Anyone may submit suggestions.

Become involved in AMATYC. Join a committee. For a complete listing of committees and contact information visit [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org) and then click on the Get Involved button and choose Committee.

## Webinar & Traveling Workshops: AMATYC Bringing Professional Development to You

During these economic times, are you being asked to do more with less? Is your college reducing the amount of money for professional training? The Corporate Leadership Council released results of a survey that asked CEOs which areas were to suffer the most in response to the economic situation. Professional development came out at the top with 38% of the organizations surveyed reporting they will stop investing in professional development for their employees. Yet, during these hard economic times, AMATYC is there for you by providing cost effective professional development activities.

Web-based training is becoming increasingly popular as a cost effective alternative to face-to-face training courses. AMATYC and American Statistical Association are working together to offer the program as a service to our membership. AMATYC is excited to collaborate with the ASA to offer the first-ever AMATYC webinar on February 26, 2009. Bob delMas will be facilitating an electronic workshop titled *Emphasizing Conceptual Understanding of Statistics*.

This two-hour web-based course will give an overview of the GAISE recommendations emphasizing conceptual understanding. In this session participants will work through examples that develop and enhance conceptual understanding for key topics such as variability and its relationship to the shape of a distribution.

Registration fee is only \$45 for each webinar connection (\$75 for nonmembers of AMATYC or ASA). Departments are encouraged to have multiple participants share a single connection (for example, by projecting the course in a conference room).

For more information about the web-based distance training program and to register for the February 26 course, visit [www.amstat.org/education/amatyc\\_asa/](http://www.amstat.org/education/amatyc_asa/).

Besides the webinar, AMATYC has provided other professional development opportunities to offer, some of which are at no cost to you. During the Annual Conference in Washington, DC, funded workshops were announced for the College Algebra, Statistics, and MAC<sup>3</sup> strands of Traveling Workshops. The statistical organization, CAUSE, has sponsored six funded workshops and the Mathematics Across the CC Curriculum project has sponsored five funded workshops. Additionally, the Right Stuff NSF-funded project still has workshops available. The announcement of these funded workshops was well received at DC.

As travel funds dry up at colleges across the country and faculty look for affordable professional development activities, consider hosting an AMATYC Traveling Workshop or participating in the Webinar. For more information, contact Patrick Averbeck, the Traveling Workshop Coordinator, at [patrick.averbeck@edcc.edu](mailto:patrick.averbeck@edcc.edu) or 425.640.1093.

## A Right Stuff Update Funding for YOU!

Workshops to promote promising practices in undergraduate mathematics have been held in Florida, California, and South Carolina in the last few months. In addition, two sessions at the Summer 2008 *Beyond Crossroads* Workshop were on materials created for the Right Stuff. The next workshop is scheduled at the Texas Community College Teachers Association meeting in Austin, TX this spring.

The project website, [therightstuff.amatyc.org](http://therightstuff.amatyc.org), now contains a selection of files used in the workshops. PowerPoints, spreadsheets, N-spire<sup>®</sup> files and even avi files may be accessed there. The site is updated periodically.

Funds are still available to support Right Stuff Traveling Workshops on your campus or during your affiliate meeting. Contact the project investigators for more details for spring/summer 2009 events.



**NEW:** The project will support\* up to three participants from any previous **Right Stuff Traveling Workshop** to attend the 2009 AMATYC Conference in Las Vegas. Participants must download the Support Request Form from the project website and submit it to Rob Kimball by March 1, 2009. The presentation in Las Vegas will focus on how the participant(s) implemented ideas from the traveling workshop in their classroom, course, and/or department.

Project Investigators: Kathy Mowers ([Kathy.Mowers@kctcs.edu](mailto:Kathy.Mowers@kctcs.edu)) and Rob Kimball ([rlkimball@waketech.edu](mailto:rlkimball@waketech.edu))

\* The project will support travel expenses up to \$800 for each participant. Travel must adhere to AMATYC policy and receipts will be required. Only workshop participants are eligible. The selection of participants will be made by a committee.

### Future AMATYC Conferences

2009	Las Vegas	November 12-15
2010	Boston	November 11-14
2011	Austin	November 10-13
2012	Jacksonville	November 8-11
2013	Anaheim	October 31-November 3

## AMATYC and NACCTEP Begin Joint Venture at the National Math Panel Forum

by Darlene Winnington, Virginia Carson, and Rob Farinelli

For the first time in history, eighty organizations from across the country ranging from early childhood educators to higher education assembled as teams at the National Math Panel Forum in Washington, DC, on October 6 and 7, 2008. This effort was sponsored by the Conference Board of Mathematical Sciences (CBMS) and the U.S. Department of Education and funded by the National Science Foundation and the ExxonMobil Foundation.

The purpose of the National Math Panel Forum was to put the 45 recommendations of the final report of the National Mathematics Advisory Panel, *Foundations for Success*, into action. The recommendations are grouped in seven sub-categories: Curriculum Content, Learning Processes, Instructional Practices, Instructional Materials, Teachers and Teacher Preparation, Standards of Evidence, and Assessment. The complete report can be viewed at [www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/mathpanel/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/mathpanel/index.html).

With reports from states that as many as 50% of prospective teachers begin their preparation at community colleges, a collaborative effort between AMATYC and the National Association of Community College Teacher Education Programs (NACCTEP) as representatives of community colleges in the area of teacher preparation was created. The team members were Rob Farinelli, AMATYC President-Elect; Darlene Winnington, Chair of AMATYC's Teacher Preparation Committee; Virginia Carson, President of NACCTEP; and Susan Wood, Past President of both AMATYC and NACCTEP. The team chose to focus on recommendation #16, developing teacher effectiveness through teacher preparation programs, and #19, mathematics preparation of pre-service teachers, career support, professional development, and on-going research.

The team has designed a plan of implementation which includes dissemination of information about the report and the continued research and findings in the areas of teacher preparation through newsletters, presentations, and committee meetings. Both organizations will add links to their respective websites to the report and to 'Doing What Works' website. Both organizations will promote identified promising practices about effective K-12 teachers in pre-service teachers' mathematics preparation. The AMATYC Teacher Preparation Committee will create a repertoire of lessons/activities in the pre-service teachers' mathematics courses and identify strands which connect K-6 student preparation to readiness for Algebra. AMATYC and NACCTEP will consider informational workshops and/or themed sessions that address the findings of the report.

Long range plans include having the AMATYC and NACCTEP Boards of Directors consider future strategies to implement these findings within the organizations. The joint team hopes to continue the short term work as stated above and consider preparing policy/position statements with regard to content knowledge of pre-service teachers and the requisite preparation of those who teach pre-service teachers.

The AMATYC Teacher Preparation Committee began its work at the 2008 Conference by dedicating an entire meeting to reporting the findings of the Advisory Panel and introducing the website, *Doing What Works*, [dww.ed.gov/](http://dww.ed.gov/), highlighting its uses in the pre-service mathematics classroom. The committee also discussed implementation at the AMATYC level as well as the possibility at local levels including the proposal of a themed session at the 2009 Conference on the Advisory Panel's Report: *Where do we go from here?* The committee is also dedicated to compiling successful practices in the pre-service mathematics classroom and would consider a joint effort with NACCTEP in the groundwork of a policy/position statement on content knowledge of pre-service teachers and the requisite preparation of faculty who teach pre-service teachers mathematics courses.



Darlene Winnington and Virginia Carson participate in the NMP meeting.

### *Crossroads Corner...*

## *Beyond Crossroads Summer Workshop on "the Cape"*

by Bruce Yoshiwara

Former *Beyond Crossroads* Implementation Coordinator

Would you like to reinvigorate yourself and colleagues in the goals of continuous improvement in instruction and enhancement of student learning while enjoying one of the most popular summer areas in the U.S.? Why not attend the *Beyond Crossroads* Summer Workshop on Cape Cod!

The workshop will run June 11-12, 2009, on scenic Cape Cod, Massachusetts. With its quaint small town atmosphere, long sandy beaches, scenic harbors, and fried clams and lobster specialties, "the Cape" is a world famous tourist destination.

Visit the workshop wiki at [bc-capecod.wikidot.com/](http://bc-capecod.wikidot.com/) for updated information for both participants and presenters. Also visit the *Beyond Crossroads* Live! website [www.beyondcrossroads.com](http://www.beyondcrossroads.com) or the AMATYC website [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org) for more information about *Beyond Crossroads*.

The *Beyond Crossroads* Summer Workshops are partially funded by NSF Grant DUE7428-0410842.



# ICME-11: An International Perspective on Mathematics Education by a Conference Attendee

by Laura Watkins

Every four years the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction convenes the International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME) for the purpose of exploring problems of mathematics education and what is happening in mathematics education from the perspectives of research and teaching practices. The eleventh edition of ICME (ICME-11) was held July 6-13, 2008, in Monterrey, Mexico. I had the opportunity to attend this congress courtesy of a travel grant funded by the National Science Foundation, along with other two-year college faculty.

Participation in ICME-11 was quite different from other conferences in that it provided the opportunity to participate in group discussions about advances, trends, challenging issues or dilemmas and important work done in the last few years. There were groups discussing technology in mathematics education in which I participated. The discussions centered on issues such as: How has technology changed tasks assigned to students? How are teachers using technology in the classroom? What are the challenges in integrating technology in the classroom? How can technological advances be taken advantage of by teachers?

From these discussions it became quite clear the pedagogy of technology use continues to evolve; particularly as the tools evolve. My schema of 'technology' expanded and now includes: graphing calculators, computer algebra systems, dynamic geometry systems, iPods, cell phones, computers, blogs, web pages, Internet bulletin boards and even social networking sites such as Second Life.

My conception of uses of technology has expanded as well. When assessing current usages of technology and looking toward the future, it is clear cell phones are quickly becoming ubiquitous. There are approximately 2 billion cell phones worldwide; nearly double the number of computers. Since this trend is likely to continue, web pages and applications are being developed for cell phones and other mobile devices; increasing the utility of mobile technology. For example, you may not be aware software is currently available to facilitate usage of a cell phone as a student response system; taking the place of clickers. I freely admits that in the past I was annoyed by students having cell phones out during class. I may just start putting those students (and their cell phones) to work.

*"Implementing the Beyond Crossroads standards requires involvement of a mathematics community, functional purposefully as a whole to improve student learning in mathematics." – Beyond Crossroads, p. 71*

## AMATYC Calendar of Events

Check the AMATYC website, [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org), for information on conferences and meetings from other organizations.



**February 6-7, 2009 WYMATYC Annual Wyoming Articulation Meeting**, Casper College, Casper, WY. Contact: Debra Swedberg, [swedberg@caspercollege.edu](mailto:swedberg@caspercollege.edu)

**February 19-21, 2009 TexMATYC/TCCTA Annual Conference**, Renaissance Hotel, Austin, TX. Contact: Paula Wilhite, [pwilhite@ntcc.edu](mailto:pwilhite@ntcc.edu)

**February 20, 2009 SOCAMATYC Meeting**, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC. Contact: Laura Hoye, [laura.hoye@tridenttech.edu](mailto:laura.hoye@tridenttech.edu)

**February 27-28, 2009 GMATYC Meeting**, Georgia Perimeter College-Clarkston, Atlanta, GA. Contact: Jeffrey Gutliph, [jeffrey.gutliph@gpc.edu](mailto:jeffrey.gutliph@gpc.edu). Website: [www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc](http://www.gpc.edu/~gpcmathc)

**March 6-7, 2009 CMC<sup>3</sup>-South Conference**, Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County, Orange, CA. Contact: Patty George, [pgeorge@cerritos.edu](mailto:pgeorge@cerritos.edu)

**March 12-13, 2009 NCMATYC Meeting**, Cape Fear CC, Wilmington, NC. Contact: Suzanne Williams, [suzanne.williams@cpcc.edu](mailto:suzanne.williams@cpcc.edu)

**March 14, 2009  $\pi$ MATYC Meeting**, Winward CC, Kaneohe, HI. Contact: Jiajia Seffrood, [jiajia@hawaii.edu](mailto:jiajia@hawaii.edu). Website: [www.geocities.com/pimatyc](http://www.geocities.com/pimatyc)

**March 26-28, 2009 IMACC Conference**, Allerton Park Conference Center, Monticello, IL. Contact: Carol Schmidt, [carol.schmidt@llcc.edu](mailto:carol.schmidt@llcc.edu). Website: [www.imacc.org](http://www.imacc.org)

**March 28, 2009 KAMATYC Conference**, Hutchinson CC, Hutchinson, KS. Contact: Steven J. Wilson, [swilson@jccc.edu](mailto:swilson@jccc.edu). Website: [web.jccc.net/academic/math/kamatyc/index.htm](http://web.jccc.net/academic/math/kamatyc/index.htm)

**April 2-4, 2009 MOMATYC 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, St. Charles CC, Cottleville, MO. Contact: Jason Pallett, [jason.pallett@mcckc.edu](mailto:jason.pallett@mcckc.edu)

**April 3, 2009 ColoMATYC Annual Conference**. Contact: Jeff Berg, [jeff.berg@arapahoe.edu](mailto:jeff.berg@arapahoe.edu)

**April 3, 2009 NEBMATYC Meeting**, Central CC, Grand Island, NE. Contact: Dale Johanson, [dale@northeast.edu](mailto:dale@northeast.edu). Website: [www.northeast.edu/Organizations/NEBMATYC](http://www.northeast.edu/Organizations/NEBMATYC)

**April 3-4, 2009 NMMATYC Joint Meeting with MAA Southwestern Section**, Western New Mexico Univ, Silver City, NM. Contact: Fariba Ansari, [fansari@epcc.edu](mailto:fansari@epcc.edu)

**April 17-18, 2009 TMATYC Meeting**, Columbia State CC, Columbia, TN. Contact: R. Michael (Mike) Darrell, [rdarrell@columbiastate.edu](mailto:rdarrell@columbiastate.edu)

**April 30-May 2, 2009 MinnMATYC/MCTM Spring Conference**, Duluth Entertainment Convention Center, Duluth, MN. Website: [www.minnmatyc.org/conferences](http://www.minnmatyc.org/conferences)

**November 12-15, 2009 35<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference**, Las Vegas, NV. Contact: AMATYC Office, [amatyc@amatyc.org](mailto:amatyc@amatyc.org)

**November 11-14, 2010 36<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference**, Boston, MA. Contact: AMATYC Office, [amatyc@amatyc.org](mailto:amatyc@amatyc.org)

**November 10-13, 2011 37<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference**, Austin, TX. Contact: AMATYC Office, [amatyc@amatyc.org](mailto:amatyc@amatyc.org)

**November 8-11, 2012 38<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference**, Jacksonville, FL. Contact: AMATYC Office, [amatyc@amatyc.org](mailto:amatyc@amatyc.org)

**October 31-November 3, 2013 39<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference**, Anaheim, CA. Contact: AMATYC Office, [amatyc@amatyc.org](mailto:amatyc@amatyc.org)

There is now an online form that will enable members to update or add affiliate conference information. You can access the form at [www.amatyc.org/affiliates/affiliates-conferences.htm](http://www.amatyc.org/affiliates/affiliates-conferences.htm).

# Mathematics Excellence Award – 2010 Call for Nominations

by Kathy Mowers

Nominations are now open for the next Mathematics Excellence Award, which will be presented at the 2010 conference in Boston. The following information is requested for each nominee:

- 1) A résumé or vita, not to exceed 3 pages; and
- 2) Three letters in support of the nomination, which includes the letter of nomination. At least one letter of recommendation should be from outside the nominee's AMATYC region.

Letters of support that elaborate on qualities mentioned in the résumé or that point out additional exemplary characteristics of the nominee are more helpful to the committee than letters that simply reiterate items mentioned in the résumé. In an effort to compare all candidates on the same basis, any additional materials submitted will not be considered.

**Nominations close November 2, 2009.**

The awardee will be selected by the committee based on the following ranking: national reputation (20 points); leadership and activities in professional organizations (20 points); professional talks and presentations (10 points); awards and grants received (10 points); publications (10 points); professional activities on a regional, state, and national scale (10 points); teaching expertise (15 points); and other contributions to mathematics and/or mathematics education (5 points).

**Submit nomination materials to:**

**Kathy Mowers  
AMATYC Past President  
Owensboro CTC  
4800 New Hartford Road  
Owensboro, KY 42303-1899**

The Mathematics Excellence Committee's members were elected at regional meetings at the conference. You may contact one of them for more information.

Sean Simpson	Northeast	sean.simpson@sunywcc.edu
Ben Nicholson	Mid-Atlantic	ben.nicholson@montgomerycollege.edu
Suzanne Williams	Southeast	suzanne.williams@cpcc.edu
Brenda Alberico	Midwest	alberico@cod.edu
Kari Arnoldsen	Central	kari.arnoldsen@snow.edu
Chris Oehrlein	Southwest	coehrlein@occc.edu
Kit Arbuckle	Northwest	karbuckle@wvc.edu
Barbara Illowsky	West	illowskybarbara@deanza.edu

## AMATYC Publications Advisory Committee

At the fall board meeting, the board approved the formation of an advisory committee to look at the purpose of all the different publications and web resources that AMATYC produces or maintains. This group will be working to determine how all of these resources are benefits for the members of AMATYC. In addition, the group will look at how to use these items to gain more members. Stay tuned for a report from this group in the near future. If you have any comments, please contact committee chair Kathryn Kozak, [kathryn.kozak@coconino.edu](mailto:kathryn.kozak@coconino.edu). Committee members are George Alexander, Irene Doo, Joyce Friske, Dave Graser, Jim Ham, Kathy Mowers, Jane Tanner, and Pete Wildman.

# Student Mathematics League

by Susan R. Strickland

At the time of this writing, the results from Round 1 of the Student Mathematics League competition are still coming in. Round 2 will take place from Friday, February 13, 2009 (it **could** be good luck!) through Saturday, March 7. If your school is not already participating in the SML, please visit the website at [www.amatyc.org/SML](http://www.amatyc.org/SML) to learn more. You can contact the SML Coordinator by email at [sml@amatyc.org](mailto:sml@amatyc.org) if you have any questions about the competition or getting your school to participate.

The results of the Faculty Mathematics League test given at the annual AMATYC conference in Washington, DC are in. The exam was given to a crowded room of 52 participants. It has become quite a competitive endeavor, with only 2.5 points separating the top four teams! The fourth place winner was T. J. Duda who has the honor of being the only person to have competed in every Faculty Math League competition that has been given thus far. There was a tie for second place between Rick Armstrong from St. Louis CC in the Central region and Rick Penn from Montgomery College in the Mid-Atlantic region. The first place winner this year was Bruce Simmons from Clackamas CC in the Northwest region. The coveted acrylic statue for the winning regional team of three was won by the Mid-Atlantic region and the statue was presented to Ruth Collins, the vice president for that region, at the Saturday breakfast. Congratulations to all who participated! For those of you who missed the conference or the faculty competition, the test and answer key are posted on the SML website.

### Online Store!

Visit the AMATYC Online Store and see interesting items and apparel with the AMATYC logo by following the link on the AMATYC webpage.

**"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you."**

—John Wooden



This year at the AMATYC Conference members had the opportunity to have a perfect day. For each \$20 *donation* made to the AMATYC Foundation during the conference, members honored or memorialized someone who had made a positive impact in their personal or professional life. The many names of those who were honored or memorialized along with the respective names of philanthropists will be published in the annual Foundation report in the August issue of the *AMATYC News*.



For each \$20 *donation*, members also had their names entered in a drawing for four complimentary nights at the Riviera Hotel during the 2009 Annual AMATYC Conference in Las Vegas, NV. The recipient of the complimentary nights was Pat McKeague.

Guest editorials and letters to the editor are invited. Submissions must be related to mathematics, mathematics education, or AMATYC. Suggestions for reprints must include the correct citation as well as permission from the original source. Send editorials and letters to Kathryn Kozak at [AMATYCNews@amatyc.org](mailto:AMATYCNews@amatyc.org).

## *Dates To Remember!*

Call for Nominations for  
AMATYC Board

Deadline:  
February 1, 2009

Submit a Proposal to Present a  
Session or Workshop at the  
2009 AMATYC Conference in  
Las Vegas, NV

Deadline:  
February 1, 2009

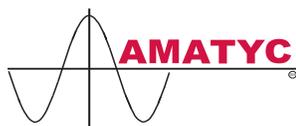
Mathematics Excellence  
Award Nominations

Deadline:  
November 2, 2009

Application to Host a Refocused  
College Algebra Traveling Workshop:

As Soon as Possible  
[www.TheRightStuff.AMATYC.org/](http://www.TheRightStuff.AMATYC.org/)

**For more information visit  
[www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org)**



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