



TexMATYC News

Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges
Affiliate to the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Fall 2004

www.texmatyc.org

Inside this issue:

TCCTA/ TexMATYC conference	I
Pre-Conference Workshop	I
President's Message	2
News from AMATYC SW Regional VP	3
Campus Representatives	4
TexMATYC Teaching Excellence	4
Legislative Update	5
Note for the Editor	5

Plan now to attend the TCCTA/TexMATYC conference February 18-19, 2005

Join your colleagues for 2 days of rich and varied presentations ranging from developmental mathematics to calculus. Session presenters will converge at the Renaissance Austin Hotel from all around the country to entertain, enlighten, and enrich everyone. TexMATYC once again teams up with the TCCTA Math Section, under the guidance of Kristen Stoley from Blinn College, to offer an expanded program for your professional development.

By popular demand, Steve Krevisky once again makes the trek from Connecticut to Texas, this time to expound on the fortunes (or misfortunes!) of the UT Longhorn football team. Find out how this popular sport can be utilized in your classroom to engage your students.



On Saturday, TexMATYC 2003 Teaching Award Excellence winner, Paula Wilhite from Northeast Texas CC, will demonstrate the use of Maple to capture and motivate your students' interest in mathematics. Paula's session is titled "Math in Color!" Not to be outdone, 2001 Teaching Excellence Award winner, Chip Galloway from Collin County CC, returns to enlighten us with his presentation on "Perspectives on Mathematics in Art History." If you have ever wondered how mathematics has impacted art history, especially during the Renaissance, you need to attend this session.

Also returning this year is John Edgell from Texas State University, who will expound on the fundamental importance of edges. If your interest is piqued by this topic, be sure to listen to John explain how edges determine the existence, size and shape of the most fundamental of geometrical building structures. Relax—John promises that the mathematics involved in this session will be that of elementary algebra!

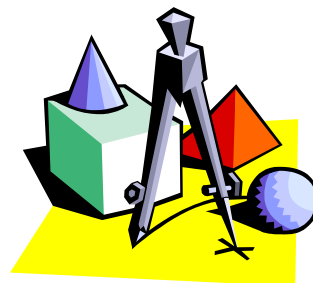
In the area of calculus, several presentations are scheduled, ranging from Molly O'Neill's session on "Using Group Activities for Comparison of Methods in Calculus", Ron Larson's revelations about

continued on page 2

Pre-Conference Workshop on Teacher Preparation February 17, 2005

Plan now to attend the pre-conference workshop prior to the TCCTA/TexMATYC conference next February. Drs. Robert and Mary Carpraro from Texas A&M University will be leading participants on a journey to "Roll, Flip, Slide, and Turn Into Geometry!" You will develop geometric pedagogical skills and provide several activities to energize mathematics courses for future teachers. The workshop will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin on Thursday Feb. 17, 2005. More information, including a registration form, are provided at the back of this newsletter.

This workshop is sponsored by TexMATYC, with generous donations from Addison-Wesley, Houghton-Mifflin, McGraw-Hill, and Prentice Hall. Rooms are provided by TCCTA.



President's Message

Linda Zientek, Blinn College



TexMATYC would like to welcome everyone, and we are very excited about the beginning of a new year. We would like to extend a special welcome to the approximately 60 new members. To facilitate and improve communication between mathematics faculty, campus faculty representatives have been established across the state. A complete list of faculty representatives can be found on the TexMATYC homepage. If you would like to serve as a faculty representative or help serve within the organization, please feel free to contact Paula Wilhite.

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey. The results are in and the board is investigating how best to utilize them to benefit mathematics faculty at two-year colleges. As a result of the survey, TexMATYC is currently in the process of creating a listserv to facilitate communication. The Newsletter is another source of communication, and upon request, an open invitation is extended for faculty to submit proposals containing innovative teaching ideas to Irene Doo for future publications. We welcome and encourage ideas to help TexMATYC fulfill the organization's purpose, which is:

- to encourage the development of effective mathematics programs;
- to afford a state forum for the interchange of ideas;
- to further develop and improve the mathematics education and mathematics related experiences of students in two year colleges;
- to promote the professional welfare and development of its members;
- to provide the opportunity to study and keep abreast of new trends in mathematics;
- to promote professional cooperation and communication between teachers and administrators for the realization of sound educational achievements;
- to promote support for and involvement in the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges.

The TexMATYC/TCCTA conference schedule is complete and in addition to morning sessions, there will be four afternoon breakout sessions. We are very excited about the variety of presenters and believe everyone will find a topic of interest to them. Prior to the TexMATYC/TCCTA conference a workshop will be conducted entitled "**Roll, Flip, Slide, and Turn into Geometry!**" This workshop investigates the nexus between theoretical mathematical empiricism and conceptual development of those ideas through manipulatives, investigative activities, and explorations. Specifically, this workshop will develop geometric pedagogical skills and provide several activities to energize mathematics courses for future teachers. Mathematics professors **Robert M. Capraro and Mary Margaret Capraro** from the Teaching, Learning, and Culture Department at Texas A&M will conduct the workshop. We look forward to seeing everyone in Austin in February.



TCCTA/TexMATYC conference, cont. from page 1

"Lies My Graphing Calculator Told Me", and the discussion panel on "Issues in Teaching Calculus".

Several sessions are devoted to Developmental Math, including a presentation on "Using Clickers in a Beginning Algebra Class" by Angela Lawrenz,, "Unorthodox Alternatives on Teaching Mathematics" by Irie Glajar, and a summary of the achievements of the NSF funded New Mexico Math Reform Project by Bill Pletsch.

Other sessions include a session to "Determine the Value of a Stock Option" by Bruce Lowe, and a discussion by Susan Hull from the Charles A. Dana Center on "High School, Community College, and University mathematics courses: Discrete and isolated or avenues for collaboration?"

A complete schedule of all sessions is posted on the TexMATYC website.

**Join us for the
TexMATYC pre-
conference
workshop on
Thursday Feb.
17, 2005...**

**...and stay for
the TCCTC/
TexMATYC
math
conference on
Friday and
Saturday!**



From the Desk of Mary Robinson AMATYC Southwest Regional Vice-President

Greetings! Soon we will be in Orlando and experiencing the excitement, collegiality and learning experiences presented to us at the 30th Annual AMATYC Conference. I hope many of you will be able to attend this year's conference, as it promises to be one of the best ones yet! Yolanda T. Moses will be the keynote speaker at the opening session of this year's conference, and will speak to us about Building Bridges and Changing Lives: The Role of Community Colleges. Professor Moses is a former president of the American Association for Higher Education was educated in the community college system having received her AA degree from San Bernardino Valley College.

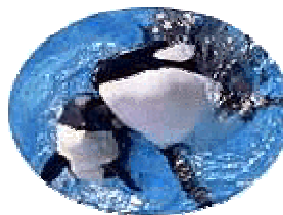


The Saturday morning Breakfast speaker will be Brian J. Winkel, Professor of Mathematical Sciences and Director of the Center for Faculty Development at the United States Military Academy, West Point. Dr. Winkel will entertain as well as enlighten us by providing anecdotes and sharing personal experiences in teaching as well as some wise words on how to make learning and teaching fun and productive. Professor Winkel holds a PhD in Ring Theory from Indiana University. He edits and publish the journals Cryptologia and PRIMUS.

The Southwest Regional meeting will be held on Friday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 AM. Breakfast will be provided, so don't go for bagels or get up earlier than you have to and eat before you get there. This will be a different experience for all of us for Regional Meetings, but I am looking forward to it and know that sharing information as well as food will be a really enjoyable experience.

And don't forget, Friday afternoon is free and clear for you to explore Orlando and see the sights. For more about what there is to do in Orlando, and to see the conference program in full, go to the AMATYC website at <http://www.amatyc.org> and explore the information provided there.

I look forward to seeing you all in just a few days!



*Join your
colleagues from
TexMATYC
and around the
country at the
30th Annual
AMATYC
conference in
Orlando.*

Mathematics Position in Mathematics Education Sam Houston State University

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics is seeking to fill two or more assistant/associate tenure-track positions in mathematics education. Candidates must have the equivalent of a master's degree in mathematics and hold a doctorate in mathematics education or equivalent. Teaching, service, and scholarly activities are required. The review will begin November 2004, and continue until the positions are filled. Submit a letter of interest, full curriculum vitae, transcripts, and three letters of reference to: Mathematics Education Search Committee, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Sam Houston State University, Box 2206, Huntsville, TX 77341-2206.

Sam Houston State University is an EEO/AAP employer.



**For more job
postings, visit the
TexMATYC
website.**

CAMPUS REPS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Paula Wilhite, Vice President

On behalf of the 2004 TexMATYC officers, I want to congratulate and thank the 31 new campus representatives for their work this semester. These representatives volunteered their time and energy to distribute information about the organization. As a result, the membership has dramatically increased during the fall membership drive. TexMATYC treasurer, Habib Far, from Montgomery College reports a 77% increase in membership to a current total of 136 members. These new members are from 51 colleges, nine of which include members for the first time in the history of the organization.

Campus representatives facilitate communication about TexMATYC on their local campuses. With their assistance, the organization plans for a significant increase in the support for mathematics education across the state of Texas. Their link to individual members is essential in offering additional professional development activities for math educators of two-year colleges. Thank you for your service and contributions resulting in this substantial growth in membership. We salute your success!

Please see the TexMATYC website (www.texmatyc.org) for a listing of members and campus representatives.



**TexMATYC
treasurer, Habib
Far, reports a
77% increase in
membership!**



Campus News Needed!

Let us know what is going on at your campus!!

See your name in print!!!

Send news items to the Newsletter Editor.

Submit a TexMATYC Teaching Excellence Award nomination today!

Show your respect for your colleague, your profession, and yourself by nominating an outstanding teacher for the TexMATYC Teaching Excellence Award. This statewide prestigious award is given each year to a deserving individual who is an exceptional teacher and a valued member of the profession. Nominees must have a minimum of five years teaching experience, with the last two years in Texas. In addition, the nominee's primary assigned duties must be delivering instruction in an associate's degree program.

TexMATYC awardees receive \$40 plus a \$60 individual membership in AMATYC. Awards will be announced at the TexMATYC business meeting in February. In addition, TexMATYC will forward the awardee's nomination packet

to the national AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award, which is given in odd-numbered years.

Former awardees are Paula Wilhite, Northeast Texas Community College, Peg Crider, Tomball College, and Chip Galloway, Collin County Community College. All three awardees have the honor of presenting at the following years TCCTA/TexMATYC conference.

By recognizing our best teachers, we emphasize the significance of our efforts, the importance of our profession, and the value of the professional goals to which we all aspire. So, please take the time to submit a nomination. Forms are included in this newsletter and on the TexMATYC website.

**Don't forget to
submit a
nomination to
the TexMATYC
Teaching
Excellence
Award!**



TexMATYC Executive Board

Linda Zientek
President
Blinn College
lzientek@blinn.edu

Paula Wilhite
Vice-President
Northeast Texas CC
pwwilhite@ntcc.edu

Mel Griffin
Secretary
Texas A&M—Corpus Christi
mel.griffin@tamucc.edu

Habib Far
Treasurer
Montgomery College
habib.y.far@nhmccd.edu

Irene Doo
Newsletter Editor/Webmaster
Austin CC
idoo@austincc.edu

Raja Khoury
AMATYC Delegate
Collin County CC
rkhoury@cccdd.edu

Natile Woodrow
Past-President
Texas State TC—West Texas
natile.woodrow@tstc.edu

Mary Robinson
AMATYC Southwest VP
U of New Mexico—Valencia
maryrobn@unm.edu

TCCTA Legislative Update

Follow the link below to view the latest legislative update compiled by TCCTA. This is the official report from the organization on legislative issues affecting community colleges in Texas. You will also find the Legislative priorities at this same site. This year's focus is on funding and employee benefits. With money issues being the major problem this legislative session, the TCCTA Legislative Committee and Executive Committee decided to place priorities on these issues.

<http://www.tccta.org/publications/Leg-Update-Aug-04.pdf>

Dates to Remember!

TexMATYC Teaching Excellence Award
Deadline: December 1, 2004

TexMATYC Pre-Conference Workshop
February 17, 2005

TCCTA/TexMATYC Conference
February 18-19, 2005

**For more information visit
www.texmatyc.org**

Note from the Editor

Welcome to the return of the TexMATYC newsletter! After a hiatus of two years, we are proud to bring to you this premier publication for mathematics educators at two-year colleges in the state. I hope you like the new and improved look of the newsletter, created with assistance from Microsoft Publisher. Your editor has spent many hours learning (and having fun with!) this powerful publishing program.

As we move forward with plans for future issues, we would like to include articles on innovative teaching, news from around the state and the Southwest region, and other information to enrich your professional life. All members are invited to submit articles on innovative teaching methods they have used in their classroom. See elsewhere in this issue for details on how you can submit news about your campus.

In addition to publishing a newsletter several times a year, my responsibilities include maintenance of the TexMATYC website. Look here for up-to-date information on happenings affecting Texas two-year mathematics educators. Also posted is the list of current members.



**Check us out at
www.texmatyc.org**



Roll, Flip, Slide, and Turn into Geometry!

A TexMATYC sponsored Pre-Conference Workshop

Thursday, February 17, 2005

11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Renaissance Hotel

9721 Arboretum Boulevard

Austin, Texas

Presenters:

Dr. Robert M. Capraro & Dr. Mary Margaret Capraro

Mathematics Education

Texas A&M – Teaching, Learning, & Culture

This workshop investigates the nexus between theoretical mathematical empiricism and conceptual development of those ideas through manipulatives, investigative activities, and explorations. Specifically, this workshop will develop geometric pedagogical skills and provide several activities to energize mathematics courses for future teachers.

WORKSHOP COST (lunch included)

\$35 for TexMATYC members

\$40 for non-members

(\$5 can be applied to TexMATYC Membership)

**Seats are limited.
Apply early!**

For more information,
please contact::

Linda Zientek
TexMATYC President
lzientek@blinn.edu
979-830-4437

SPONSORS



Registration Form

Roll, Flip, Slide, and Turn into Geometry! **TexMATYC pre-conference workshop** **February 17, 2005**

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone number _____

Email address _____

TexMATYC Membership Status: _____ Member _____ Non-Member

Amount Enclosed _____ (\$35 for TexMATYC members, \$40 for non-members)

If non-member, would you like to apply \$5 of your registration fee towards a one-year TexMATYC membership? _____ Yes _____ No

Make checks payable to TexMATYC.

Mail completed registration form and payment to:

Habib Far – TexMATYC Treasurer
Montgomery College
3200 College Park Dr.
Conroe, TX, 77384

TexMATYC Award for Teaching Excellence
Must Submit by December 1, 2004

Nominees must have a minimum of five years teaching experience with the last two years in Texas. The nominee's primary assigned duties must be delivering instruction in an associate's degree program. Teaching excellence is the main focus of this award. Individuals can win the award only once. Nominees may not be on the AMATYC Board or nominated by an AMATYC Board member. The award will be \$40 plus a \$60 individual membership in AMATYC for the year your nomination will be sent on to AMATYC. Award will be announced at TexMATYC official meeting in conjunction with TCCTA. All TexMATYC awardees will be nominated for AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award, which is given in odd-numbered years.

Criteria for selection is weighted as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | Classroom Expertise | 25 points |
| 2. | Professional Involvement | 10 points |
| 3. | Interaction with Colleagues | 5 points |
| 4. | Service to Departments/Division/College | 5 points |
| 5. | Professional Development/Renewal Activities | 5 points |

Information that **must** be provided:

1. Completed information form.
2. Current vita of nominee.
3. A Letter of recommendation from a student, a colleague, or a supervisor.
4. Nominator's letter of support.

In fairness to all candidates, no additional materials will be considered. Pages exceeding limits will not be considered. Materials not in the checklist will not be considered. Limits will be: Vita of nominee maximum of 5 pages, letter of recommendation maximum of one page, and nominator's letter maximum of three pages.

TexMATYC Award for Teaching Excellence
Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____

College: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Number Of Years of Teaching Experience: _____

Number Of Years Presently Teaching In Texas: _____

Nominator: _____

College: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Email, fax, or mail all requested documents to:

Linda Zientek, TexMATYC President
Blinn College
902 College Ave
Brenham, TX, 77833
lzientek@blinn.edu
(979) 830-4004 fax

TEXAS MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

MEMBERSHIP and INFORMATION SHEET

Today's Date _____

NOTE: If you are a renewing member, just fill out your name and the membership box below.

TITLE (circle one) Dr. Mr. Ms.

NAME _____ AMATYC MEMBER? _____

COLLEGE _____

COLLEGE ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME ADDRESS _____ PHONE () _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

WHICH ADDRESS SHOULD TexMATYC MAIL GO TO? _____ COLLEGE _____ HOME

MEMBERSHIP: New _____ Renewing _____

Dues: \$5.00 per year x _____ years = \$ _____

Paid by: _____ check (# _____) _____ cash

Please return this form to: Habib Far
Montgomery College
3200 College Park Dr.
Conroe, TX, 77384
(936) 273-7093
Habib.Y.Far@nhmccd.edu

Please keep this receipt for your records.

Date: _____

Check number _____

Total dues paid _____

For how many years? _____