



# TexMATYC News

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

January 2009

[www.texmatyc.org](http://www.texmatyc.org)

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
TCCTA/ TexMATYC Workshops Feb 19th, 2009	2
TCCTA/ TexMATYC Conference Feb 20-21, 2009	3
From AMATYC Southwest Vice- President	4
Why TexMATYC?	5
Student Math League Winners	5
2008 ICME Conference Report	5
Contact Information	7
The Right Stuff Registration Form	8
Maple Workshop Registration	9

## President's Message Paula Wilhite



### Preconference Workshops - Let's Do the Math!

The TCCTA /TexMATYC annual conference is only a few weeks away. It is an important time for us to meet, to focus, to network, and to enrich our personal professional portfolio of ideas about how to help students master the often difficult concepts of mathematics. Thanks to a host of dedicated individuals, we have an excellent program that is designed to meet your needs and engage your interests.

Both preconference workshops target areas of concern in the community college curriculum. If you are interested in enriching the college-level courses that you teach, this is the perfect opportunity to obtain new ideas to accomplish this goal. Both workshops are guaranteed to expand your approach to teaching students for mastery and thus to bring increased satisfaction in your teaching career.

**The Right Stuff: Appropriate Mathematics for All Students** will focus on appropriate content, the use of technology, assessment strategies, the use of alternatives to lecture as well as other ways to improve the students' achievement in and attitudes toward mathematics. The guiding principles are found in the Beyond Crossroads: Implementing Mathematics Standards in the First Two Years of College.

**The Maple Workshop** will demonstrate software that's so simple to use you don't have to teach the tool. The workshop develops the pedagogical strategy of teaching concepts before manipulative skills. While solving problems from pre-calculus, trig, and calculus, participants will see how to implement this teaching style and simultaneously become familiar with the ease-of-use syntax-free features of Maple 12. A Maple 12 download will be available at no additional cost to the participant.

These workshops are scheduled for **Thursday, February 19** from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. The cost of each workshop is \$25 for TexMATYC members and \$30 for non-members (lunch and afternoon snack included in fee). Please click to download a registration form at [www.texmatyc.org](http://www.texmatyc.org). *Enrollment is limited, so reserve your seat today.*

Let's do the math for a better future for our students!  
Together we *will* make a difference for the next generation of students!

Paula A. Wilhite  
Northeast Texas Community College

## 2009 TCCTA / TEXMATYC Conference Program

February 19 - 21

Renaissance Hotel – Austin

Thursday, Feb 19th 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Preconference Workshop – “The Right Stuff”

**Rob Kimball**

Project Director for the NSF-supported “The Right Stuff: Appropriate Mathematics for All Students” will present a workshop: “Promising Practices for Undergraduate Mathematics.” The workshop will focus on appropriate content, the use of technology, assessment strategies, the use of alternatives to lecture as well as other ways to improve the students' achievement in and attitudes toward mathematics. The guiding principles to be used in designing the Traveling Workshops are found in the Beyond Crossroads: Implementing Mathematics Standards in the First Two Years of College. Please see [www.texmatyc.org](http://www.texmatyc.org) for more details.

A working lunch and afternoon snack will be provided. The cost of the workshop is \$25 for TexMATYC members and \$30 for non-members. Participants are asked to bring a laptop (if available) and graphing calculator.

Rob Kimball is the Project Director of the Right Stuff NSF award to AMATYC. He has been a Project Investigator on numerous NSF projects that have taken teachers back to industry, created curriculum materials, and promoted excellence in mathematics. He was on the writing team for Crossroads as well as for Beyond Crossroads. He was the southeast Vice President of AMATYC and a past committee chair for AMATYC. He was in the first group to receive the Teaching Excellence Award from AMATYC. He is on the faculty at Wake Tech CC (Raleigh, NC) where he served as department head for Mathematics and Physics for 27 years.



### Preconference Workshop – “Maple Workshop”

**Robert J. Lopez**

What Would Your CAS-Based Course Be Like If You Didn't Have to Teach the Tool? With software that's so simple to use you don't have to teach the tool, this workshop develops the pedagogical strategy of teaching concepts before manipulative skills. While solving problems from precalculus, trig, and calculus, participants will see how to implement this teaching style and simultaneously become familiar with the ease-of-use syntax-free features of Maple 12.

A working lunch and afternoon snack will be provided. The cost of the workshop is \$25 for TexMATYC members and \$30 for non-members. Participants will be asked to bring a laptop with Maple 12 loaded. Instructions for a free 30-day download of Maple 12 will be available.

Dr. Robert J. Lopez, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics at the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, USA, is an award winning educator in mathematics and is the author of several books including Advanced Engineering Mathematics (Addison-Wesley 2001). For over a decade, Dr. Lopez has also been a visionary figure in the introduction of Maplesoft technology into undergraduate education. Dr. Lopez earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Purdue University, his MS from the University of Missouri - Rolla, and his BA from Marist College. He has held academic appointments at Rose-Hulman (1985-2003), Memorial University of Newfoundland (1973-1985), and the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (1970-1973). His publication and research history includes manuscripts and papers in a variety of pure and applied mathematics topics. He has received numerous awards for outstanding scholarship and teaching.



**Registration forms for workshops are available on pages 8 & 9**

**or at [www.TexMATYC.org](http://www.TexMATYC.org)**

**Register for TCCTA/TexMATYC conference at [www.TCCTA.org](http://www.TCCTA.org)**





## Friday, February 20

**9:30-10:40 a.m.**

***What is the National Math Panel and How Does it Affect the Colleges?***

Speaker: *Don Allen*, Professor of Mathematics, Texas A&M University

**10:50 a.m. - 11:50 p.m. Keynote Address**

***Islam, Mathematics, and Culture Across the Curriculum***

Speaker: *Pat McKeague*, Author and Instructor of Mathematics, Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo, California

**1:15 - 2:00 p.m. TexMATYC Official Meeting**

**2:10 – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions:**

**Session I: *The Square Root of WHAT?***

Speaker: *Joanne Peeples*, Mathematics Instructor, El Paso Community College

**Session II: *Dynamic Models: Integrating Support Services and Classroom***

Speaker: *Jamie Blair*, Author and Director of the Mathematics Learning Center, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, California

**3:10 – 4:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions:**

**Session I: *Reviewing the Basics While Teaching Beginning and Intermediate Algebra***

Speaker: *Sherri Messersmith*, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois

**Session II: *Interesting Applications of Base Arithmetic and Modulo Structure***

Speaker: *John Edgell*, Professor of Mathematics, Texas State University

## Saturday, February 21

**9:00-10:15 a.m.**

***Learning Objects as a Gateway to Student Inquiry and Understanding***

Speaker: *Wade Ellis*, Retired Mathematics Instructor, West Valley Community College, Saratoga, California

**Saturday, 10:30-11:45 a.m.**

***Trigonometric Curiosities***

Speaker: *John Coburn*, Author and Professor of Mathematics, St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley, Missouri

(CTRL+click on titles hyperlinks to the abstracts of the talks)

**From the AMATYC Southwest Vice President:  
Jean Woody**



Hello to every one in the Lone Star State! What an exciting time for TexMATYC and the Southwest Region; in 2011 Austin will host the 37<sup>th</sup> AMATYC Annual Conference. The last AMATYC Conference held in Texas was in Dallas in 1990! Each AMATYC conference has a local events committee. I am excited that Honey Kirk from Palo Alto College has accepted the position of Local Events Chair for the 2011 AMATYC Conference. I urge all of you to serve on the local events committee in some capacity. In addition, you can expect support from the Southwest Region.

The conference in Washington, D.C. was fabulous. Just waking up every morning to a view of the Washington Monument was awesome! And, the conference was top-notch. The keynote address by Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, president of University of Maryland, Baltimore County, *21<sup>st</sup> Math Education: Promoting Success Among All Students*, was powerful and moving. As I looked around the very large room, I saw many of our colleagues crying or fighting back the tears. All I could say was "WOW!"

The Southwest Region had a great turnout for the Saturday morning breakfast; about 100 members enjoyed the dialogue with colleagues and the delicious breakfast. Our region has many Project ACCESS Fellows. If you are in your first or second year of teaching mathematics, or if you know someone in their first two years, I encourage you to apply or encourage a colleague to apply to be an AMATYC Project ACCESS Fellow. Texas can also be proud about mathematics education in Texas; the Southwest Regional Mathematics League team and individual winners were from Texas!

At the breakfast, I encouraged everyone to get involved with AMATYC; there is a plethora of ways to be involved:

- Serve on one of eight AMATYC Academic Committees
- Attend an AMATYC Summer Institute
- Sponsor a Traveling Workshop at your college
- Moderate or start a Student Mathematics League at your college
- Write an article for AMATYC's new journal
- Apply for AMATYC Project ACCESS.

Finally, I encourage you to nominate a colleague for the Mathematics Excellence award (awarded in even years) or Teaching Excellence Award (awarded in odd years)

I want to thank Paula Wilhite for her leadership as president of TexMATYC. I hope all of you have a great semester and I will see you at the TexMATYC Conference!

Jean Woody  
AMATYC Southwest Vice President

## Why TexMATYC?

### Raja Khoury, Vice President



Greetings Colleagues,

I would like to extend a special thank you to all members of TexMATYC. You are part of the 237 members listed at <http://www.tex.matyc.org/members.pdf>. As a member of this professional organization, you are granted the opportunity to express your opinion as a scholar as well as a professor of Mathematics on issues related to your students and your professional activities. One way to improve this communication channel is to join your colleagues and become a member of your professional organization.

What stops you from becoming a member? Let your Campus representative know that you want to voice your opinion and to vote on issues related to your position. To become a member, please e-mail TexMATYC's treasurer Habib Far of Lone Star College at [Habib.y.far@lonestar.edu](mailto:Habib.y.far@lonestar.edu). A complete list of campus representatives can be found at <http://www.texmatyc.org/>. Please let me know if you are interested in representing your colleagues.

It is easy to find out who is a TexMATYC member at your college. Wouldn't you want to be on the membership list? By being a member, you can support your colleagues on issues related to curriculum and classroom activities as well as on new trends in teaching and professional development in Mathematics. Additionally, you will be part of the TCCTA/TexMATYC annual activities.

Thank you for being a member of TexMATYC.

Raja Khoury  
Collin College

## Congratulations to Student League Winners!

### Southwest Region Student League Awards 2007 – 2008

Rank	Member on Team	Team	Score
1	James Pappas	North Harris College	44.0
2	Jesus Aldape	Tarrant County College	42.5
3	Yannan Liang	Mesa CC	40.5
4	Dustin Estetter	Austin CC	39.0
5	Daniel Miller	Austin CC	37.5

**Southwest Region Individual Standings**

Rank	Team	Score
1	Austin CC	217.5
2	Pima CC	181.0
3	Tarrant County College	179.0
4	North Harris College	169.0
5	Mesa CC	164.0

**Southwest Region Team Standings**





## Report 2008 ICME Conference

**Steve Krevisky**

Professor of Mathematics  
Middlesex Community College  
Middletown, CT

In July 2008, I attended the International Congress on Math Education (ICME), which took place in Monterrey, Mexico. The ICME is held every 4 years in different parts of the world. This was my 5<sup>th</sup> ICME, having been to previous ones in Budapest in '88, Seville in '96, Tokyo in 2000, and Copenhagen in 2004. I was fortunate to receive full or partial travel grants to attend the congresses in 2000 and 2004.

Congress participants come from all over the world, and participate in discussion groups and topic groups, which meet frequently over the course of the week. There is also a day off for a congress excursion, which took many of us to a beautiful waterfall outside the city. A bunch of us subsequently went on our own to these caves in the mountains, Las Grutas de Garcia, also outside the city. Seeing the city and shopping was good as well.

I was part of Discussion Group (DG) 23 on Two Year Colleges and other Tertiary institutions, which had previously met in various ways at the congresses in Seville (sharing session), Tokyo and Copenhagen. We have tried to identify our common problems (underprepared and math anxious students, need for professional development, etc), as well as understand the structures of our various institutions. Papers were presented on various issues in math education, germane to 2 year colleges. My paper, co-written with a colleague (Randy Taylor from California), talked about using Z scores in Statistics to analyze who were the best sluggers in baseball, as a concrete way to help students in our institutions see the relevance of what they are learning. There were papers on other classroom topics, as well as on research practices in our institutions.

At the end, we agreed to push on, so that our DG would also occur at the next ICME congress in Korea in 2012. We want to do more research based work, as part of identifying best practices for all to benefit from. We hope to stay in touch between congresses as well. One development of note is that I have been asked to co-chair a sub-committee of the Department/Division issues committee of AMATYC. This subcommittee, which met at AMATYC in DC in November, will focus on international math education, and not only plan for the next ICME, but also focus on other international math conferences. We will work closely with AMATYC folks on this, issue a statement of goals, work with NCTM, MAA and other groups with interests in this realm, and hopefully produce a newsletter. This is in addition to my chairing the AMATYC A-NET special interest group on international math education.

Please contact me if this is of interest to you!



Steve enjoying Texas in  
Big Bend National Park



Steve Krevisky  
[Skrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu](mailto:Skrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu)



Steve at waterfall,  
Monterrey, Mexico



## **TexMATYC Executive Board**

### **Paula Wilhite**

President  
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### **Raja Khoury**

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### **Mel Griffin**

Immediate Past President  
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### **Jean Woody**

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Tulsa Community College  
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Visit us at  
**[www.TexMATYC.org](http://www.TexMATYC.org)**

How is a telephone like a math problem?  
One mistake and you get the wrong number.



**Got News?**

If you know of any exciting news in  
mathematics, have it published in  
your **TexMATYC** newsletter.

Submit articles to

**Heather Gamber:**

**[Heather.a.gamber@lonestar.edu](mailto:Heather.a.gamber@lonestar.edu)**

Registration Form

TexMATYC Pre-conference Workshop



Thursday, February 19, 2009  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Renaissance Hotel – Austin  
TCCTA – TexMATYC Annual Conference

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

TexMATYC Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member

Amount Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 for TexMATYC members, \$30 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 check payable to TexMATYC.

Mail completed registration form and payment to the following address:

**Habib Y. Far, TexMATYC Treasurer**  
**Lone Star College-Montgomery**  
**3200 College Park Dr.**  
**Conroe, TX 77384**



Registration Form

TexMATYC Pre-conference Maple Workshop



Thursday, February 19, 2009

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Renaissance Hotel – Austin

TCCTA – TexMATYC Annual Conference

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

TexMATYC Membership Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Member \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 for TexMATYC members, \$30 for non-members)

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**Habib Y. Far, TexMATYC Treasurer**  
**Lone Star College-Montgomery**  
**3200 College Park Dr.**  
**Conroe, TX 77384**