



TexMATYC News

Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Spring 2016

President's Message

By Cynthia Martinez, Temple College. TexMATYC President.

I hope you had a relaxing and adventurous Spring Break! Whether you stayed in the area or took a ride to an area of interest, I hope you were rejuvenated to finish out the spring semester. With less than a month remaining in the spring semester, I hope you are able to finish out on an excellent note. Thank you to those who traveled to Houston in February for the annual TCCTA convention and attended the sessions presented by TexMATYC. All the presentations from that week are now available for viewing at our website (www.texmatyc.org). Feel free to share the sessions that most interested you with your colleagues.



As you begin winding down this semester, think about how you can inspire your students, make a difference in your department/institution, or make a difference in your community. Most students are eager to learn. Inspire and enlighten your students with relevant math situations. Who knows – one day, one of your students may be applying for a teaching job in your department. Wouldn't that be cool! You can make a huge difference in your department or at your institution. Be vocal about the best practices that are emerging and share with your colleagues as to what

positive changes can be implemented to best impact your students. Community members are always interested in how their tax dollars are positively impacting the institutions they financially support. Write an article about how their tax dollars are being utilized at your institution or department. Be sure to include photos of your students who are reaping the rewards of how the community supports them in their educational endeavors. Math education is evolving; best practices are being shared across the country. How can you be a part of the change that is going on and make a difference? What will be your legacy? Share your stories with others!

Have a spectacular spring semester and wishing you an enjoyable summer break! Take time to smell the flowers and read a good book (math, of course)!

News from AMATYC

By Kathryn (Kate) Kozak, AMATYC Vice President for the Southwest Region

During the first weekend of April, the AMATYC board met to discuss many topics. One of the major topics discussed was the adoption of a new mission and vision statement for AMATYC. The new mission statement for AMATYC is:



To provide high quality professional development, to advocate and collaborate at

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all levels, and to build communities of learners for all involved in mathematics education in the first two years of college.

The new vision statement for AMATYC is:

To be the leading voice and resource for excellence in mathematics education in the first two years of college.

The next step is to develop the new strategic plan. The purpose of a strategic plan is to take the organization from where it is right now (the mission) to where it wants to be (the vision). The strategic plan for 2018-2023 will be presented during a forum at the AMATYC Annual Conference in Denver. If you are attending the conference, please attend the forums to provide your input. The board will approve the final version of the strategic plan at its spring board meeting of 2017, and present the plan to the delegate assembly at the 2017 conference in San Diego.

Have you ever thought of running for an elected office, either for TexMATYC or for AMATYC? I hope that you have, but in case you haven't, I would like to tell you some reasons for running for a position. First, when you serve in a leadership position, you are able to learn from others who are serving with you. You can bring that knowledge back to your home institution, and then your institution can benefit from this information. You also meet many people throughout the nation if you are an AMATYC leader or through the state if you are a TexMATYC leader. The networking opportunities are vast for anyone in a leadership position. Last but not least, you are in a position to shape the future of the organization that you serve. I have found that to be a very rewarding aspect of my position.

AMATYC's election is September of 2017. You may think that is a far time off, but the deadline for nomination material is February 1, 2017. Now is the time to think about if you are interested in running. The positions that you can run for are president-elect, secretary, and vice-president of the southwest region. All of these positions are supported by AMATYC, which includes travel to the AMATYC annual

conference (except for conference registration) and board meetings. Your college needs to be willing to give you time off for travel to the meetings and conference. So if you are interested, start talking to your college administration right now, then check on www.amatyc.org for information on how to submit a nomination.

TexMATYC Board Elections

It is time to elect the officers for the Executive Board of TexMATYC for 2016-2018. A call for nominations was made at the TexMATYC Board meeting at TCCTA with a deadline for submissions of March 31. The slate of candidates determined by the Nominating Committee is below and all offices have the option of a write in candidate.

President Elect	Mario Morin, South Texas College
Treasurer	Habib Far, Lone Star College
Secretary	Kyle Kundomal, Collin College

The voting will be done online and the deadline for voting is April 30. Members will be emailed the password to access the ballot. Please go to <http://www.texmatyc.org/> and click on the VOTE link.



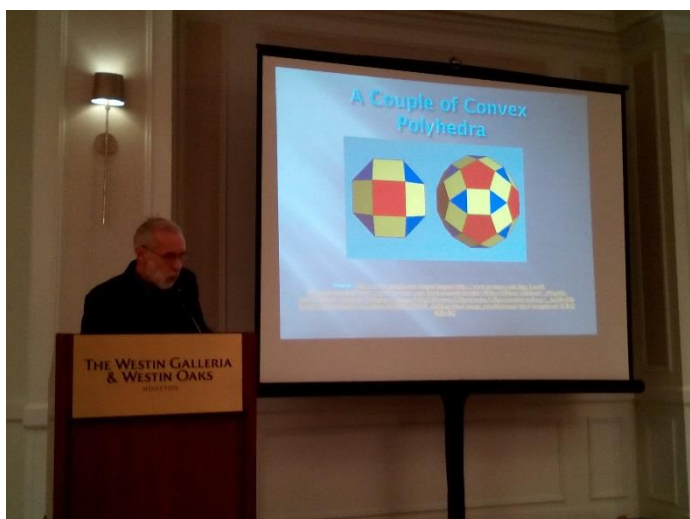
TexMATYC Conference



Thursday Sessions



Friday Sessions



John Reutter



Friday Sessions



Cynthia Martinez (president) & Sharon Sledge
(immediate past president TexMATYC)



Heather Gamber & Veronica Dominguez



Habib Far and Jeff Groah



Pauline Chow and Andrea Hendricks

2016 Conferences

- NCTM conference: San Francisco, CA, April 13-16, 2016
- MathFest: Columbus, Ohio, August 4-6, 2016
- AMATYC conference: Denver, CO, November 17-20, 2016.
- AMS/MAA Joint Meeting: Atlanta, Georgia, January 4-7, 2017.

A Pathway to the Active Learning Classroom

By Veronica E. Dominguez,
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South Texas College was awarded a 2.5-million-dollar grant from the Department of Education to be distributed over the course of 5 years. It included three components one of which is to create state of the art Active Learning Classrooms distinguished as Tier I and Tier II. The Tier I classroom is equipped with wireless technologies, furniture on wheels and rolling whiteboards. They are a true gem on campus.

Having completed the FOCUS Academy during the 2014-2015 Academic Year, I was given the privilege of teaching in one of the Active Learning Classrooms during the 2015-2016 Academic Year. Student retention and participation has been overwhelmingly positive.

The smoothest courses for me to incorporate the teaching strategies I learned in the FOCUS Academy

are Elementary Statistics and Math for Elementary Teachers. Those teaching strategies include collaborate group work, classroom talk, questioning, literacy groups, writing to learn, and scaffolding. I believe the strategies work best in these courses because the students have similar mathematics backgrounds and are able to do some of the traditional lessons through blackboard and MyMathLab without requiring as much guided support as a College Algebra or Calculus student may require. The students must be responsible for outside classwork because these strategies take up a great deal of class time.

The Collaborate Group Work teaching strategy is very easy to incorporate because of the movable furniture. The tables can easily be rolled around to create different sized groups. Rolling whiteboards are also very useful. The students enjoy using these to explain computations to their classmates. One student commented, "It is a nice change of pace when a student is encouraged to stand up and learn." I encourage using the whiteboards during a 2 hour and 20-minute Calculus course to keep the students engaged.

Scaffolding, the teaching strategy that supports the students' learning, is easy to incorporate in a College Algebra course. My twenty-minute lesson vignettes are designed with three examples where I explain the theorem or concept in the first, work together with scaffolding and "think aloud" in the second, and students' complete the third example on their own. I chose each carefully, so that the students are exposed to different applications and skills. The moveable furniture helps with this technique because I am able to easily walk around and assist when needed. Classroom talk, questioning, literacy groups, and writing to learn are strategies that I have to make a conscious effort to incorporate. I have been making progress in applying these strategies in my mathematics teaching by taking time to write notes to myself in my lecture notes to remind me of better questioning styles and having the students write more. The flexible furniture set-up in the Active Learning Classroom helps the students become comfortable with each other and encourages active participation. I have noticed the students more eager

to answer my questions and share what they have written during the writing to learn activities than compared to a traditional classroom.

I recently received the news that the current Tier I classroom will be converted into a Tier II classroom over the summer. The classroom will receive large flat screen monitors and laptops for every collaborative group. I look forward to these improvements. For more information on the FOCUS Academy and the Active Learning Classroom please follow the link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xs_tt0xSVpA



Classroom before



Classroom after

Cryptograms

Created by Dr. Jeffrey Groah, Lone Star College-Montgomery

Answers will be in the next issue. Please email Heather Gamber (heather.a.gamber@lonestar.edu) your answers. The first correct response to each cryptogram will be acknowledged in the next issue, with full bragging rights.

1. EIAAWGCI, UE HFQW LC UE JUCCLH UE ILT
AUI QWRFJW FG, FE LJW FQWU XI HDFZD AUJ
GDCLTBD GDW UBWE DUE GCFWQ GL
ZLAOCWDWJQ UJQ ZCWUGW LCQWC,
XWUTGI, UJQ OWCRWZGFLJ. DWCAUJJ HWIK
2. BNK TKKO FBGTI AY ZUBGHK LF BNK WAFB
YHGLBYGE FAGHVK AY WUBNKWUBLVUE
TLFVARKHI. YAGHLKH
3. YPFDQM PYZ YPFDQM'O GPTO GPI JXZ XY
YXLJF; LNZ OPXZ, 'GMF YMTFNY WM,' PYZ
PGG TPO GXLJF. PGMEPYZMQ VNVM

Solutions for the last issue:

1. ALL THE THEORY OF THE MOTION OF
FLUIDS HAS JUST BEEN REDUCED TO THE
SOLUTION OF ANALYTIC FORMULAS.
LEONHARD EULER
2. THE POPULAR MIND, IN ALL TIMES AND
COUNTRIES, HAS ALWAYS TENDED TO GO
BY NUMBERS IN ESTIMATING THE
WEIGHT OF EVIDENCE. WIGMORE ON
EVIDENCE
3. IT IS THE NATURE OF ALL GREATNESS
NOT TO BE EXACT. EDMUND BURKE

Membership Drive Winner

During the TexMATYC Conference in Houston, the TexMATYC executive board announced a membership drive with an active member to be randomly drawn as the winner of a \$100 gift certificate.

As a result, we had 20 new and renewing members. Sylvia San Pedro from Lone Star College-Cy-Fair and Mark Hammerbacher from Lone Star College-Tomball upgraded their annual memberships to life-time memberships.

We wish to congratulate the winner who was randomly selected from our 89 active members:



Yvette Janecek from Blinn College – Brenham.



If your membership has expired, you missed out on your chance of winning this drawing, but please consider renewing now. You can join online at www.TexMATYC.org

TexMATYC Executive Board

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Joke of the Month

Did you hear about the origami store? It folded!



Got News?

If you know of any exciting news in mathematics, have it published in your TexMATYC newsletter. Submit articles to Heather Gamber at heather.a.gamber@lonestar.edu.

Visit us at www.texmatyc.org