



TexMATYC News

Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Spring 2017

President's Message



Well, we are about to finish another academic year. I know these last few weeks will fly by and then you can take a well-deserved vacation (or work all summer as many do!).

Thank you to everyone who came to TCCTA and were able to attend one of the sessions we held, I hope there was some good information conveyed that you could take back to your college; or even just something that created an opportunity for personal growth.

I want to make some announcements about scholarship opportunities for next year. The deadlines will be in the fall, so now is the time to begin thinking about nominations and making plans.

AMATYC Presidential Scholarship: Each affiliate is allowed to nominate one deserving student to be eligible for a \$1000 scholarship awarded by AMATYC. The winner is selected by a random drawing at the Affiliate Presidents Luncheon during the 2017 AMATYC conference. TexMATYC will select our nominee by a committee appointed by the President. You may nominate a deserving student from your school with a letter describing the student's academic achievements and goals. The selection committee will select the student to be entered into the drawing. A rubric with the qualities to address in the letter will be emailed to the members this summer, along with instructions for submission. The deadline will be September 15.

Affiliate Scholarship: Each affiliate may choose one affiliate member, who has never attended an AMATYC conference, to receive a complimentary registration (last year's registration was \$360). You may submit a letter of recommendation for a colleague describing their teaching background and how attending the conference will help them grow as a teacher. The deadline for this submission will be October 1 and the submissions will be reviewed by the Executive Board of TexMATYC to make the selection, a reminder will be sent this summer along with where to send the letter. The nominee must be a member of AMATYC.

I hope the remainder of the semester is drama free for everyone and you feel like you've made a difference in your students' lives. Enjoy the summer!

Becky Heiskell
TexMATYC President



Message from AMATYC Southwest VP



The AMATYC IMPACT Project is really exciting and is in the final editing and writing stages. The final draft will be sent to the editors soon. AMATYC IMPACT will be presented to the Delegate Assembly at the AMATYC Annual Conference in San Diego, November 17-20, 2017. This document is the new standards document from AMATYC and will focus on increasing the mathematical prowess of students, faculty, and departments/institutions. Look for more information from AMATYC on this exciting document.

There are two other items that will be presented at the Delegate Assembly at the AMATYC Annual Conference in San Diego. That conference is November 9-12. There will be a position statement on the Mathematics for Students in Two-Year Terminal Programs is currently being developed by the Math and its Applications Committee. Please contact the chair of this committee to provide any input. The Delegate Assembly will decide if it will approve this position statement at the conference and there is a forum on Thursday night for additional input. In addition, the next strategic plan for AMATYC is in the final stages of development. It will be presented to the delegate assembly at the delegate assembly.

Applications for Project ACCCESS are due May 15. Project ACCCESS is a program for mathematics teachers that are new to teaching at a community college. Applicants must be in their first three years as a full-time community college teacher. Visit AMATYC.org for the application form. Please apply and encourage your colleagues to apply.

StatPREP is an NSF grant whose goal is to prepare faculty who teach statistics to teach the modern methods of statistical analysis including analyzing big data. The grant is co-sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), AMATYC, and the American Statistical Association (ASA). There will be a series of workshops offered in major metropolitan locations for the next five summers. The concept is to offer the workshops in these locations to reduce travel costs. The workshops are free, materials for the workshops will be provided, food during the workshops will be provided by the host institution, and there is a small stipend of \$100 for participants to offset their travel costs. Host institutions will be provided with funds to cover the costs of the workshops. A faculty member at the host institution will become a regional hub leader who will be the host for two workshops in consecutive summers and be a resource for participants between the workshops by maintaining an online hub. Funds will be provided to the host institution to compensate the regional hub leader. The workshops for the summer 2017 will be offered at the College of the Canyons in California, June 9-10 and St. Katherine University in Minnesota, June 23-24. If you are interested in participating in either workshops, applications can be submitted through StatPREP.org. If your institution is interested in being a host institution for future summers please visit StatPREP.org for more information.

Kathryn Kozak
AMATYC Southwest VP

Happening Around Texas

The Mathematics department at Temple College hosted its 9th Annual Mathematics Enrichment Program Speaker Series.

On March 23, 2017, the 9th annual MEP welcomed Becky Kamas as the featured speaker. She is the manager for STEM on Station, a NASA Education activity dedicated to bringing NASA-unique, STEM opportunities and resources related to the ISS to both students and educators. She previously attended TC and taught math in the area before working at NASA. Over 70 people attended her talk on "Let's Work the Problem, People", a quote from the former flight director Gene Kranz. Unlike space travel, problem solving doesn't happen in a vacuum. From how you get people to space to the space potty to our future journey to Mars, students learned how NASA works in solving the problem. Students learned that expertise, ingenuity, and creativity is what makes spaceflight happen!



The Temple College Math Team (Team BBQ, Beta-Beta-Phi) went to MAA - Texas Section Meeting on March 30-April 1 at TAMU-Commerce.

The students participated in this year's Calculus Bowl which consisted of 28 teams from 2 & 4 year public/private Texas institutions. We are very proud of their accomplishments at this tournament where teams can score in the negative. Five schools scored below Team BBQ (Beta-Beta-Phi). BBQ team score was 0 - a number that is neither negative nor positive. The students also attended Student Contributed Presentations, as well as talks on "The Mathematics in Modeling and Rigging Hank in Finding Dory" presented by the Senior Technical Director at Pixar Animation Studios, Inc., Kevin Singleton; "Fruitful Falacies" by Dr. Harold Boas (TAMU-CS), "What is Mathematical Creativity in Proving and How Can it be Fostered?" by Mr. Milos Savic (OU), and "Design Research to Enhance Coherence, Rigor, and Accessibility in Calculus Instruction" by Dr. Mike Oehrtman (OSU).



Students attending the conference: (left-right) Aaron Oatley, Albert Artiga, Bradley Dyess, Quinton Fowler, and Alicia Kincaid.

Submitted by: *Cynthia Martinez*

Thank You Note from AMATYC Foundation

TexMATYC members,

On behalf of the AMATYC Foundation, I would like to thank you for your generous donation to AMATYC. Your contribution facilitates achieving AMATYC's strategic priorities and goals and validates the efforts of the many, many members who work on behalf of AMATYC and the profession. In the past, AMATYC funds have been used to support AMATYC Project ACCCESS fellows, support a reception at the AMATYC Conference in New Orleans for past and present recipients of the AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award, and support the revision of the AMATYC Standards document. The Foundation has supported the 2016 NADE/AMATYC Developmental Mathematics Summit and offered some financial support to four AMATYC members attending the 13th International Congress on Mathematical Education held in Hamburg, Germany in July 2016. Rest assured that your 2016 donation to the AMATYC Project ACCCESS Fund will be put to good use!

Sincerely,

Nancy Sattler
AMATYC Foundation Chair



Update from TexMATYC Treasurer

TexMATYC Annual Financial Report For 2017
(as of January 1 2017)

Description	Expenses	Income
Previous Balance		\$10,678.89
Membership (Cash)		\$340.00
Membership (PayPal)		\$678.90
Interest		\$11.24
Membership Raffle	\$100.00	
AMATYC Hospitality	\$150.00	
AMATYC Project ACCCESS	\$250.00	
Student Math League Winner (TCCCD)	\$100.00	
Student Math League Winner (Participant)	\$150.00	
TexMATYC website (donated by Ed Bock)	\$94.96	
Balance		\$11,387.62

Habib Far
TexMATYC Treasurer



Drawing Winners

Winners of our membership drive drawing:

- \$50 gift card winner:
Brandon Barnhart - Collin College
- \$30 gift card winner:
Alfred de la Rosa - Lamar Institute of Technology
- \$20 gift card winner:
Flo Culp - Central Texas College

Door Prize Winners at the TexMATYC meeting:

- Denise Brown - Collin College
- Carlos C. Corona - San Antonio College
- Alfred de la Rosa - Lamar Institute of Technology
- Marion Foster - Houston Community College
- Cameron Neal - Collin College
- Fermin Ortiz - San Antonio College
- Mary Parker - Austin Community College
- Rose Shirey - College of the Mainland

Departmental Representatives Needed

The Texas Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) is a vibrant community of mathematicians and mathematics educators. We are rededicating our efforts to include educators at every level – K-12, two-year college, four-year bachelor and Masters level institutions, and PhD granting institutions – in our association and at our meetings. To this end, we are expanding the program previously known as the “MAA Departmental Liaisons” to be “Departmental Representatives.” At each meeting of the Texas Section of the MAA, there will be meeting for department representatives, which will continue to provide a forum for individuals from a wide array of institutions to gather, learn about news from MAA,

and to share their concerns, questions, and suggestions for both the Section and the association.

The spring MAA Section meeting continues to be a place to share ideas about teaching, connect with other faculty in the region, and bring students to engage them in mathematics outside of the classroom.

Look for a meeting of departmental representatives on the schedule of the next Meeting of the Texas Section of the MAA, to be held at El Centro College in Dallas, TX, 5-7 April, 2018. If you'd like to be involved, or if you have questions, please contact **Jacqueline Jensen-Vallin** at Jacqueline.jensen@lamar.edu. We hope to see you next spring!

Texas Association of Academic Administrators in the Mathematical Sciences

The Texas Association of Academic Administrators in the Mathematical Sciences (T3AMS) consists of current and former math department chairs from four-year universities to community colleges across the state of Texas. Its members meet twice a year, once in the Spring jointly with MAA Texas section meeting, and once in the Fall semester. The sole purpose of T3AMS is to promote and facilitate the college mathematics education in the state of Texas. A typical meeting agenda will include a report from THECB liaison, presentation and discussion on teaching mathematics, updates on state requirements, student transfers, and other ideas on improving teaching.

If you would like more information about this organization and/or the date and location of future meetings, please contact **Dr. Jianzhong Su**, Math Chair at UT Arlington, and current secretary of T3AMS, his email is su@uta.edu.



Pictures from AMATYC and TCCTA Conferences

Pictures from the TexMATYC sessions at TCCTA in Austin



TexMATYC Board Members at AMATYC in Denver: (left - right)
Cynthia Martinez, Sonia Ford, Kyle Kundomal, Mario Morin, Becky Heiskell



Becky Heiskell giving updates on TexMATYC during the regional
breakfast meeting at AMATYC



Upcoming 2017 Conferences

- TCCTA Great Teaching Roundup
May 22-25, 2017. Kerrville, TX
- MAA MATHFest
July 26-29, 2017. Chicago, IL
- TCCTA Faculty Leaders Fall Conference
September 29-30, 2017. San Antonio, TX
- AMATYC 43rd Annual Conference
November 9-12, 2017. San Diego, CA

Got News?

If you know of any exciting news or events happening in the world of mathematics, have it published in the next TexMATYC Newsletter!

Submit your articles to Kyle Kundomal at kkundomal@collin.edu.

Visit us at www.texmatyc.org



"Just a darn minute! — Yesterday you said that X equals two!"

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