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GMATYC NEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Georgia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

President's Corner

BY BEHNAZ ROUHANI
PERIMETER COLLEGE AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Once a mathematics professor at a prominent private university was becoming increasingly worried over the nonsense that her daughter was bringing home from her high school math class. The professor could only conclude that the high school teacher did not understand the basic principles. So, one day the professor made an appointment with the high school math teacher to express her disappointment and frustration. Could you imagine the professor's surprise when she found out the teacher was one of her former math students!

One hopes that the above encounter caused the university professor to reassess how she taught, and how she evaluated her students' progress. Do you think she took time to think about how much she cared about her teaching, or how much she would care in the future? It really does not take much effort to show that we care about our students' progress, success and future. The point is that we are serving in this position to share their pain, help them learn, and be sincere partners in their success. Part of this helping attitude is to step into their shoes and see the problem from their lens. So, are you ready to make the difference?

We are all where we are because of our passion for teaching and do not consider it as a job but a calling. We may be challenged by circumstances but never lose sight of our mission, which is helping students to succeed in life. What a rewarding experience! Like any other profession, we do need to brush up on our mathematical pedagogy, experience, etc., and that can be accomplished alongside colleagues from around the country by attending the upcoming AMATYC conference in Orlando scheduled for November 15-18. Hope plans are underway for you to be there.

Finally, GMATYC is here to serve you! The future of this organization is in your hands.

To find out more about this organization please visit the website gmatyc.org.

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GMATYC Officers:

The 32nd Annual Mathematics Conference at Perimeter College, Georgia State University

BY DIANA MCGINNIS
MATH CONFERENCE CHAIR

The 32nd Annual Mathematics Conference at Perimeter College, Georgia State University will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 15-16, 2018, on the Clarkston campus. The theme this year is "Active Learning in Mathematics—Put the Ball in their Court". The conference committee will soon accept proposals for topics related to undergraduate mathematics, with emphasis on ways that instructors can help students take an active role in their own learning. If you have successful strategies that "put students in the driver's seat", please consider sharing them with your colleagues at the conference.

We will have student presentations on Saturday, and we are hoping to have student poster presentations on Friday and Saturday. Please encourage your students to submit proposals. Here is the link to the conference website. http://sites.gsu.edu/pc-gsu--mathconference/

Rusandica (Sanda) Manole, Perimeter College at Georgia State University, was selected to be the first recipient of the Margie Hobbs Award. The award will be presented at the 44th AMATYC Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida in November. The Award, made possible through contributions to the AMATYC Foundation, will be given annually to an AMATYC member who has been selected for the first time to do a regular session or workshop. Sanda will be featured in the Conference Program and the award will be presented at the opening session of the AMATYC Annual National Conference. If you are interested in submitting a nomination for the Margie Hobbs Award for next year's conference, please send (as a single pdf file) the following information to amatycfoundation@amatyc.org: A letter from the nominee addressing why he/she deserves the award, a copy of the speaker's acceptance letter, the nominee's curriculum vitae, and a support letter from his/her supervisor. All nominations are due by June 1. Congratulations, Sanda!!!

AMATYC: Let's Get Involved!

BY NANCY RIVERS
AMATYC SOUTHEAST VP

Greetings from North Carolina! My portion of the state had little impact from Hurricane Florence, unlike the areas to our south and east. I am glad that Georgia was spared from the might of Florence!

There has never been a better time to get involved in AMATYC. There are opportunities at a variety of levels. Here are some ideas:

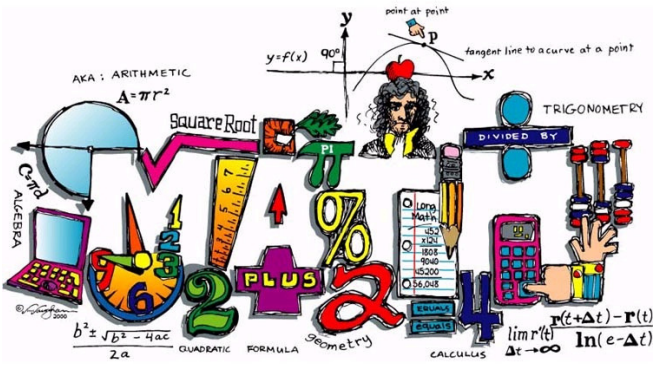
• Join a committee or ANet. Membership in these focused groups is open to all AMATYC members. You can simply join on the AMATYC website!
• Serve in a small capacity: regional rep to an AMATYC committee; serve on the Teaching/Mathematics Excellence selection committees, the nominating committee (we have one in place now but will form a new one next fall!), Student Math League test writing team, etc; attend the conference and serve as a Delegate, maybe even on the Delegate Assembly Minutes Review Committee.
• Be a Student Math League or Student Research League Moderator at your college.
• A few opportunities have opened up for volunteers. We are seeking a Historian.
• A little more heavily involved volunteer role would be serving as the newsletter editor or the professional development coordinator.
• We will be seeking a new Exhibits Chair to serve on our Conference Committee.
• Nominations for the next Executive Board will be due in February. Consider running for office. The office of Southeast VP will be open as I am term-limiting-out. I know that the position of Treasurer will also be open as well as the President-Elect.

Please, get involved. If you have any questions about any of these opportunities, feel free to email me, njrivers@waketech.edu. I hope to see you in Orlando in November and then again in Georgia next spring!

The recipient of this year's AMATYC affiliate scholarship (discount member conference registration- $360) is Richard Puscas from Perimeter College at Georgia State University. This is the first time Richard will be attending AMATYC.

Congratulations Richard!

The 25th Annual University of North Georgia Math Tournament



BY MINSU KIM

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA

The University of North Georgia at the Gainesville Campus will host the 25th annual Math Tournament on Saturday April 6, 2019. Students currently enrolled in a two-year college or a four year college that offers a two year mathematics degree, who have never been enrolled in any 3000 level Math Courses are eligible to participate. Students must be enrolled in the college they are representing at the tournament. High school students taking college courses are eligible. Exceptions: Students who have taken or currently are taking Differential Equations and/or Linear Algebra, may participate in the tournament even if these courses are numbered as 3000 level courses at their respective schools.

The Tournament has two main events. The morning competition is a 90 minute, multiple choice calculus exam. Individual scores are determined by the number of correct answers an individual gets in the morning competition. Students are NOT penalized for incorrect answers. Calculators are not allowed in the morning event, so it is an old timey paper and pencil and head-bone test.

The afternoon portion of the Tournament is a team competition, (non-calculus problems) with timed questions considered by teams of up to 4 students. Correct answers within the first minute are credited with ten points, within the second minute, nine points, etc. on down to one point for an answer during the last minute. Graphing calculators may be used on the afternoon portion of the competition.

Between the morning and afternoon portions, we break for lunch, which will include a short presentation by an invited speaker.

After all the scores are tallied, the winning individuals (1st thru 5th place) in the morning test and the winning teams (1st thru 4th) are announced at an awards ceremony. Winning individuals and teams receive cash prizes. Winning schools in the overall competition get trophies, and bragging rights!

Last year's (2018) Tournament was attended by 145 students and 30 proctors from 18 different campuses from 5 states across the Southeast.

If you have participated in the UNG Math Tournament before, please consider coming again this year. If you haven't made it before, please consider this open invitation. If you have any further questions, please email Minsu.Kim@ung.edu or Irfan.Bagci@ung.edu , the coordinators of this year's event.

I Am STEM

BY BROOKE SKELTON AND MARGIE LEWKOWICZ
PERIMETER COLLEGE AT GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Dunwoody Campus of Perimeter College at Georgia State University is in its third year of a National Science Foundation S-STEM Grant entitled “I Am STEM: Mindset and Belongingness in Underrepresented STEM Populations”. I Am STEM recruits financially needy and academically talented female and minority STEM majors; students receive scholarships up to four semesters at Perimeter.

In addition to scholarships, I Am STEM participants are provided advising, mentoring, and a variety of educational opportunities designed to encourage persistence in STEM, foster a sense of belonging, and serve the community. Our industry partners offer advice about how to achieve and advance in STEM fields, networking, personal growth, and career success. The I Am STEM scholars also visit engineering, manufacturing, and high tech firms where STEM majors are employed. Tours typically involve time to speak with experts in addition to the actual facility visit.

During the past several years, Perimeter College has partnered with local elementary schools to assist with their STEM Career Days and Family STEM Nights. I Am STEM students participate in these community service events by leading STEM enrichment activities designed to help the children discover the joy and wonder associated with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Science stations include building molecules, making ice cream, and discovering sound, light, and electricity; engineering stations include building and launching paper rockets, aluminum foil boats, building geodesic domes, and drinking straw towers; math stations include tessellations, Napier’s Rods, and a “Mathemagical Show” where the tricks are not magic but are based on mathematical principles. Connecting the STEM majors with elementary students not only provides new opportunities and experiences for the elementary students, it also lets the college students appreciate the advances they have made in their STEM studies.

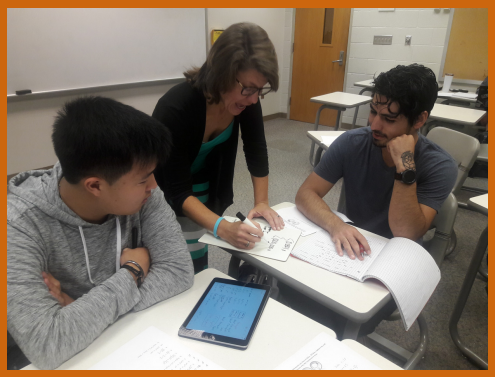
The impact that I Am STEM has on the students can be summed up by the following quotes from a few of our I Am STEM participants:

"I am very glad I was part of the program. It helped me to get some great advice from experts who are in the STEM field. I loved the speaker section and trips to the companies. These were very helpful for me as I am in school trying to find out what it is really like to get a job in my field."

"The I Am STEM program provided me with the much needed focus and motivation I needed, as well as the opportunity to converse with others who at some point were in my shoes and have been able to work through it to a point they can now consider themselves successful."

"I Am STEM is a great experience that I have benefited from in many ways. I met likeminded students, who I have become great friends with, and I have met individuals, who are deep into their careers, that have given us advice, taught us about their experiences and jobs, and inspired us to achieve our full potential."

"I love how being part of I Am STEM means you have a support system which makes an absolute difference. I’ve met people that I’ve worked on research projects with, or that have helped me in class, or whom I’ve been able to help."



Middle Georgia State Mathematics Professors Snag Two of Three Faculty Excellence Awards

BY BLANCHE PRESLEY AND DAVID VOGEL
MIDDLE GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Middle Georgia State University math professors Dr. Matthew Noble and Dr. Don Brown were recognized at MGA's annual Faculty Convocation in August. Matt won the 2018 Excellence in Scholarship Award, while Don was honored with the Excellence in Service Award.

Don Brown is a familiar name and face to members of this GMATYC organization. Many of our faculty members have attended the annual conferences and meetings where Don served tirelessly in every position of leadership. He has faithfully attended state and national conferences to fulfill these duties, encouraging others along the way. Because of his love of mathematics and teaching mathematics he has provided invaluable, untiring service to the MGA Mathematics Department, to the university and to the greater Middle Georgia community. Serving as assistant chair of the Mathematics Department, he has been the person we could all count on to be available, to answer our questions or to find the answer as quickly as possible. Quoting his nomination letter, "Don Brown is the glue that holds the Mathematics Department together. Because of Don's love for this department and this university, he has taken on an exorbitant amount of extra work on top of his already full slate of teaching and administrative duties."

Dr. Noble was recognized for publishing three journal articles on graph theory and combinatorics in the past year. Two of his papers, "application of an extremal result of Erdös and Gallai to the (n, k, t) problem" and "a dimension 6 graph with minimum edge set," recently appeared in Theory and Applications of Graphs and in Graphs and Combinatorics. The third has been accepted for publication. Matt also gave presentations at the Midwestern Conference on Combinatorics and Combinatorial Computing and the Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing. While producing an unprecedented level of academic output, Matt also helps coordinate the Middle Georgia State Academic Bowl and Math Olympics, while teaching a full 4-course load of upper-level and core courses.

We mathematicians at Middle Georgia State University are very proud to count Don and Matt as friends and colleagues.