

GMATYC NEWSLETTER

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Nikita Patterson,
Perimeter College at Georgia State University

Greetings Colleagues! This was an interesting fall semester. Due to the effects of Covid-19, most of our activities have had to be virtual. We all had to make adjustments to our teaching style and delivery. Many of us had to show a great deal of grace when interacting with students, friends, and family. But we made it.

As we head towards a much-needed holiday break, I ask that you think about ways you can participate with GMATYC. What can you do?

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- Volunteer to be the newsletter editor, serve on a committee, or run for an elected position
- Recruit a full-time or adjunct faculty member to join GMATYC and/or consider the benefits of a lifetime membership. Membership information can be found at www.gmatyc.org
- Exchange mathematics classroom ideas with contemporaries around the state.
- Collaborate with other GMATYC members on mathematics lessons, grants, articles, etc.
- Share news of awards, promotions, and other achievements with members. You can send member updates to me at npatterson@gsu.edu

In addition to the work of GMATYC, we support the national organization AMATYC. This year's 46th Annual AMATYC Conference, originally planned for Spokane, Washington, was also virtual. Login to myAMATYC to view session recordings, find speaker materials, discuss conference sessions, and participate in AMATYC communities at <https://amatyc.org/page/2020ConfHome>. Thank you to our delegates Kimberly Bennekin, Hong, Du, and Dihema Longman, who were present to vote on some very important issues in the mathematics community.

I am wishing you all a happy holiday season. Please stay sane and stay safe!

THE 34TH ANNUAL MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE AT PERIMETER COLLEGE, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

By: Keisha Brown,
Math Conference Chair



2020 has been quite the year! We have been faced with unique challenges and positioned for many growth opportunities. As we all try to juggle our new realities and responsibilities, we realize that flexibility and training are two keys that will help educators thrive on this journey.

As a result, the GSU Perimeter College Math Conference Committee will hold a virtual conference with a live keynote address on Friday, February 12, 2021, at 10 AM Eastern via Webex. Our keynote speaker is Andrea Hendricks, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Associate Department Chair for the Online Mathematics and Computer Science Department at Perimeter College.

The theme of this year's conference is ***"MATH TREK: TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CYBERSPACE."*** Please consider sharing your experience and knowledge about one of the following session tracks:

- 1) **Effective Technology Tools** - Padlet, Kaltura, Kahoot, etc.
- 2) **Reach Then Teach** - How to build rapport with students virtually; how to manage everyone's stress; how to incorporate access, diversity, and inclusion themes into your class, etc.
- 3) **Building Content Capacity** - What teaching or engagement strategies have you used successfully in your courses?

We are also interested in receiving proposals from your undergraduate students. They may present any STEM topic, whether the assignment was completed as a class project or as research with a professor. The call for 10 - 20 minute video proposals is open now. Proposal acceptance notifications will be sent to applicants. The deadline for proposals is Friday, January 15, 2021, by 5:00 PM.

The conference is free to attend, but you need to register. We hope to "see" you there!

The link to the conference website is <http://sites.gsu.edu/pc-gsu--mathconference/>.



Georgia State University Perimeter College
34th Annual Mathematics Conference

TEACHING AND LEARNING IN CYBERSPACE

Greetings from Your AMATYC Southeast Vice President

By: Alvina Atkinson

Georgia Gwinnett College, Lawrenceville, GA

Hello GMATYC members! I am excited to bring you greetings from AMATYC.

During the month of November, AMATYC hosted its very first virtual conference. For those of you who were able to join, I hope that you found the presentations informative and inspirational. If you were not able to join the conference, or if you missed a session that you wanted to attend, I am delighted to share that the recordings of some of the conference presentations are available now on the myAMATYC website. Everyone is able to view the presentations and participate in the discussions through myAMATYC. The library of recordings can be found at this link or at my.amatyc.org.

Speaking of myAMATYC, if you are not a member of the myAMATYC community, you are now able to join for free. Just login at www.amatyc.org (if you have ever been a member or have attended an annual conference before) or register as a Friend of AMATYC to join the community. Access to this community is normally reserved for current members. During these unusual times, though, when many people have been asked to distance and disconnect, mathematics professionals are invited to have access and connect through this community. This opportunity to join for free is for a limited time, so join us now. If you have any questions about myAMATYC, please reach out to me at alvinaatkinson@amatyc.org.

I am happy to share that the call for presenters and presiders for the 2021 AMATYC Conference in Phoenix is now open. You are able to submit your proposals now through February 1, 2021 at <https://amatyc.org/general/custom.asp?page=2021ProposalCall>. Consider joining us and sharing some of the wonderful things that are happening in our classrooms here in Georgia. We are planning for an amazing time in Phoenix and we hope to see you there.

As a fellow member of GMATYC, it has been my honor to serve as your AMATYC Southeast Vice President. It has been a strange year for many of us, but we have risen to the challenge of educating students despite some changes in course format and delivery due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you prepare for the end of the semester and your holiday break, my hope is that you are replenished and inspired.

Enjoy your break, and have a happy and safe holiday season.



GMATYC Elections: Let's Get Involved!

By: Lisa Yocco
East Georgia State College

GMATYC elections will be here before we know it. This year the position of President-Elect and two positions on the Nominating Committee must be filled.

The President-Elect or Past-President shall:

- (1) coordinate publicity and public relations activities,
- (2) act as an ex officio member of the Membership committee, and
- (3) chair the Bill Bompert Teaching Excellence Award Committee.

Members of the Nominating Committee call for nominations, select a slate of nominees for the offices to be filled, run elections and tabulate the results. The term of office for the Nominating Committee is two years.

Full descriptions for these positions can be found in the GMATYC Bylaws at www.gmatyc.org (About Us).

If you are interested in nominating an individual for any position (or self-nominating), please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

- Lynda Cain (lcain3@gsu.edu)
- Lisa Yocco (lyocco@ega.edu)
- Solomon Betanga (sbetanga@gordonstate.edu)
- Rusandica Manole (rmanole@gsu.edu).

Pictured below from left to right: Lynda Cain, Rusandica Manole, and Solomon Betanga



The 61st Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference

By: Denise Huddlestun (GCTM Immediate Past President)
and Tashana Howse (GMC Board Chair)

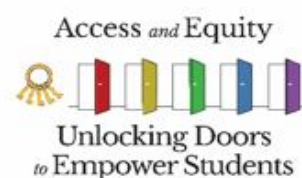


This past October, the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM) held its 61st Annual Georgia Mathematics Conference (GMC). For the first time, the conference was conducted virtually and was free to all attendees. The theme of the conference focused on access and equity, which was timely given the state of affairs our country and what is on the hearts and minds of many Americans. Both the 2019 and 2020 GMC themes included an equity focus: 2019 - “Acquiring the Keys to Access and Equity”; 2020 - “Unlocking Doors to Empower Students: Access and Equity.”

OCTOBER 2019



OCTOBER 2020



In 2019, attendees were challenged to acquire the keys of cultural competence, bias recognition, critical consciousness, open-mindedness, and cultural responsiveness. In the GMC 2020 welcome letter, our program chair, Carla Bidwell, wrote:

"These keys serve to unlock doors for our students—doors that structural racism has slammed shut on our Black and Brown students and their families, doors that biased school policies and practices disguised as “for all students” have tried to quietly shut, and doors with children waiting eagerly on the other side to be seen and valued by their teachers for all the multiple ways in which they identify."

It is our belief that these keys equip teachers to empower students by ensuring all students have access to high quality mathematics and ensure that mathematics instruction is equitable. To that end, access and equity are essential to the effective teaching and learning of mathematics. The GMC 2020 conference sessions were designed to engage participants in deep thought and critical conversations on teacher practice. Our keynote speakers addressed the theme from different perspectives:

Keynote Speaker	Session Title
Dr. Robert Berry, Past President of NCTM	Identity, Agency, Positionality and Equitable Instructional Practices
Dr. Juli Dixon, Professor of Mathematics Education at the University of Central Florida Alex Dixon, student at the University of Central Florida Jessica Dixon, student at Florida State University	Redefining Success: Supporting All Students to Reach Their Full Potential
Dr. Tamara Pearson, Director of the Center of Excellence for Minority Women in STEM at Spelman College	The Myth of Neutrality: Mathematics Classrooms as the Great Un-equalizer

Dr. Berry's perspective focused on the importance of teachers empowering students in mathematics learning by supporting them in seeing themselves in the mathematics. Dr. Dixon and her daughters focused their perspective on learners with special needs and how mathematics instruction can be designed to empower them. And lastly, Dr. Pearson made use of data to shed light on significant inequities in the mathematics classroom, which highlighted the importance of the theme of the conference.

In addition to the keynote sessions, the three featured speakers, Dr. Aris Winger, Dr. Christopher Jett, and Marian Dingle inspired attendees to rethink their practice. This was evident in the session evaluation feedback:

- Dr. Winger's presentation was passionate, intriguing, and inspirational. I truly hope to hear from him again in the future.
- Mr. Winger was extremely energetic and provided high energy the entire presentation. I left today refreshed and reminded that I don't teach math, I teach people.
- Thank you so much Dr. Jett for speaking on such a necessary topic and doing the research!
- Informative data, continue the well needed research!
- Excellent session! Self-reflecting I will have to do now. Thanks again!
- Kudos for having us reflect on our practice, our lives, and on how we want to be remembered--so powerful!

The other 25 concurrent sessions offered the same energy and provided attendees with a wealth of knowledge to consider, activities to implement, and lesson ideas to modify. There were 2,245 registrants for the conference. This was twice the conference registrants we had last year. Overall, GMC 2020 was a great success thanks to the dedication of the GMC Board who pivoted to provide the virtual conference and to the GCTM Executive Committee members who stepped in to assist in moderating the 31 sessions.

For more information on the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics or to join, go to <https://www.gctm.org/>

◇ RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT ◇

Gina Reed, Professor of Mathematics, is retiring after thirty seven years of teaching collegiate mathematics with over thirty years of her career at UNG. During her tenure at UNG, she has received several awards and/or grants at the university, state, and national level. She is a lifetime member of GMATYC. She received the AMATYC INPUT award in 2003 and the GMATYC Teaching excellence Award in 2004.

Congratulations on your retirement, Gina!



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