



VMATYC
VISIONS
Spring 2015

The newsletter of the Virginia Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges

Table of Contents:

Notes from the President

2015 VMATYC Conference

Important Changes

VMATYC Website Update

Treasurer's Report

Membership Report

Election of Officers

2014 AMATYC Conference Report

Impressions of the 2014 AMATYC Conference

2015 AMATYC Conference Information

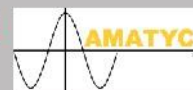
Glenn Fox VMATYC Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship Report

Regional Conferences

VMATYC Campus Contacts



The Virginia Mathematical Association
of Two Year Colleges



Notes from the President

Mike Kirby



Welcome back! I hope everyone's Spring Semester has gotten off to a good start.

The Annual Spring VMATYC Conference will be held at Tidewater Community College, Virginia Beach campus on Friday & Saturday, March 20 & 21. I hope to see you there. Susan Evans, President-Elect and I are planning a fun and information filled meeting. More details can be found later in this newsletter and also at our website, www.vmatyc.org. Please consider presenting or hosting a round table discussion. You can also renew your membership when you register for the conference. At \$10 a year, this is a great bargain and supports our organization.

The weekend of our conference is also the Shamrock Marathon weekend at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. There will be many fun events Saturday afternoon and evening for everyone. The oceanfront is less than 30 minutes from the TCC campus. The conference hotel rate of \$94 is good for Saturday night also. Several important issues will be discussed at the VMATYC business meeting at our upcoming conference on Saturday morning. These include membership fees and the VMATYC relationship with the VCCS Office of Professional Development. Your input is needed and welcome; please plan to attend.

This is also an election year. John Gallo and the Regional Vice-Presidents have been busy finding candidates. If you've ever considered being a member of the VMATYC Executive Board, we welcome your participation. There is more information later in the newsletter.

VMATYC is a state affiliate of AMATYC, the national organization. Sandie Dashiell has an article in this newsletter on last year's conference in Nashville. The upcoming AMATYC conference for 2015 will be in New Orleans. For more information visit the website, www.amatyc.org. Judy Williams from TCC-Portsmouth is the program coordinator and promises it will be a great conference.

It has been an honor to serve you as VMATYC President. If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please contact me at mkirby@tcc.edu. I hope to see you in Virginia Beach!

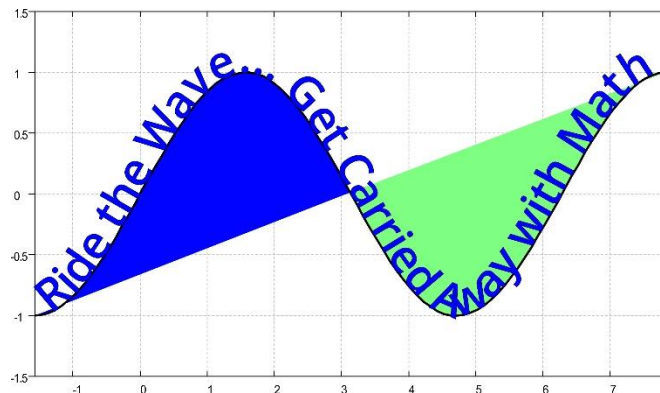
VMATYC Executive Board 2013-2015	
Mike Kirby, Tidewater President	Alison Moore, Central Virginia Vice President, Central Region
Susan Evans, Wytheville President-Elect	Libby Watts, Tidewater Vice President, Eastern Region
John Gallo, Tidewater Past President	Carrie Lowry, Germanna Vice President, Northern Region
Mariko Shimizu, Thomas Nelson Membership Secretary	Jason Lachniet, Wytheville Vice President, Western Region
Theresa Nystrom, Thomas Nelson Recording Secretary	Sandie Daschiell Thomas Nelson Affiliate Delegate to AMATYC
Elena Byrd, Thomas Nelson Treasurer	

2015 VMATYC Conference

Susan Evans

Please plan to join your colleagues at Tidewater Community College's Virginia Beach Campus for the 29th Annual VMATYC Conference on March 20-21, 2015. The theme of this year's conference is "**Ride the Wave...Get Carried Away with Math.**"

Presentation sessions and workshops will be conducted from 2:00 – 5:00 pm on Friday March 20th, and 9:30 am -12:30 pm on Saturday, March 21st. The annual VMATYC general business meeting will be held prior to presentations on Saturday, March 21st.



Conference registration includes a banquet on Friday night. The speaker at the banquet will be Dr. David Wright, a Professor of Physics at Tidewater CC. Dr. Wright's presentation, entitled "Physics is Phun", will look at the math behind physics. Each banquet attendee will receive a "survival kit" and use it to explore inverse proportions, simultaneous equations involved with the bounce of a tennis ball and basketball, ratios that are used for everything from the pressure of an elephant foot to lying on a bed of nails.



VMATYC is looking for presentations concerning general teaching pedagogy, use of technology for teaching, successful strategies to enhance the achievement of both developmental and transfer mathematics and interesting project and assignments you are using in your classroom – both in person and online. Please consider making a presentation or hosting a round-table discussion. Presenters will receive a \$15 discount on their conference registration. *Applications are needed by March 1.*



The conference registration fee is \$40 for all VMATYC members or any other state AMATYC affiliate member. The conference registration fee for any non-VMATYC member is \$50, however all eligible attendees are encouraged to become a VMATYC member for \$10 and pay the member registration fee of \$40. Being a VMATYC member supports our organization, and entitles you to apply for scholarships to attend AMATYC conferences as well as the opportunity to apply for scholarships for your students. Attendees can register online at the VMATYC website and pay the appropriate conference fee and membership dues. *Attendees are urged to register before March 9th, after that there will be a late fee.*



Rooms have been reserved for conference attendees at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach – Norfolk. The rate is \$94 per night and this includes a hot breakfast. The Friday night banquet will be held in the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach – Norfolk banquet room. Reservations can be made using the link at the VMATYC website, or by calling the hotel directly, the Group code is VCC.

To guarantee a room at this rate you must make your reservation by Friday February 27th.

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach -Norfolk
5655 Greenwich Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
1-877-834-3613 or 1-757-499-4400
www.hivabeachnorfolk.com

For conference details and registration please go to the VMATYC website www.vmatyc.org

For more information, please feel free to contact:

Susan Evans, conference chair, sevans@wcc.vccs.edu

Mike Kirby, host site conference coordinator, mkirby@tcc.edu

Important Changes

VMATYC is no longer directly affiliated with VCCS as a Peer Group. The annual VMATYC conference is not affiliated with the VCCS Office of Professional Development or the VCCS Math and Computer Science Peer Group, therefore, you will not be reimbursed by VMATYC or the VCCS directly for any of your hotel costs as has been standard procedure in the recent past. For more information, please feel free to contact Susan Evans or Mike Kirby.

VMATYC Website Update

Libby Watts, has been working diligently to redesign our new website at

<http://vmatyc.org/>

You can find information on our organization, our conferences, your membership, and more great stuff. Check it out!

Treasurer's Report

Elena Byrd

As of January 23, 2015, VMATYC has total assets of \$ 34,715.20 .

\$ 8,118.25 in checking

\$ 9,379.47 in savings

\$17,217.48 in CDs

\$ 6690.43 of this amount is reserved for the Scholarship Fund.

The 2015-2016 Membership Application can be found on the website under the VMATYC information tab. Your membership fee may be paid online through PayPal or by check, payable to VMATYC (Federal ID 54-1394373).

Membership Report

Mariko Shimizu

As of January 23, 2015 VMATYC has 139 members. By Region, the membership distribution is:

Central: 8 members

Eastern: 60 members

Northern: 53 members

Western: 16 members

Other: 2 members

You can renew your membership when you register for the annual conference, or you can renew it online at the VMATYC website.

Elections of VMATYC Officers

John Gallo

It is time for VMATYC to choose the officers who will lead it in the academic years spanning 2015-2017. We will conduct elections soon. The current plan is that email messages will be sent to all VMATYC members in mid-February inviting the recipients to vote.

All members will be voting on the following positions:

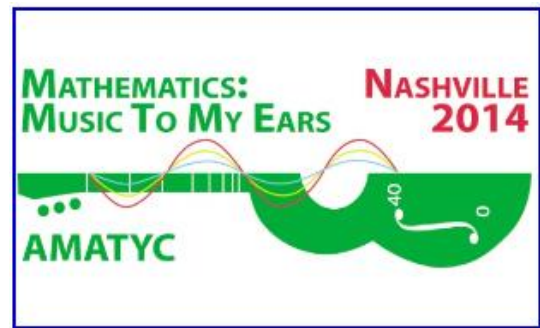
President-elect, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, AMATYC Affiliate Delegate. Additionally, members will vote for the Vice President of the region in which they teach.

If your VMATYC membership is not current, you will not receive a voting email; if you want to vote, you need to renew/activate your membership *right away*. If you are interested in running for one of the officer positions, send an email message to John Gallo IMMEDIATELY at jgallo@tcc.edu.

2014 AMATYC Conference

Sandie Dashiell

AMATYC Affiliate Delegate (2013-2015)



Greetings all! I would like to update you on some of the highlights from the 40th Annual AMATYC Conference in Nashville, Tennessee on November 13 – 16, 2014, and provide information on the items that were discussed at the Delegate Assembly. The conference hotel was so large, that one could walk for 3-4 miles it seemed without ever having to go outside!

You could go to all of the sessions, large group gatherings, plus shop and eat, several choices of restaurants being available, without walking outside, which was good because it was quite cold at the time we were there, in the 20's for several days if I remember correctly.

Highlights of the conference included some exceptional speakers. Thursday afternoon at the opening session, we heard from Zelman Usiskin, Professor Emeritus of Education at the University of Chicago and Director of the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. His talk focused on the implications of Common Core State Standards in Mathematics (CCSSM), suggestions for improving the standards and how two-year colleges could be involved in this activity. On Saturday morning at the breakfast session, we were treated with a talk by Herb Gross, the Founding President of AMATYC (1974) and also of NYSMATYC (1967) and a long-time proponent of standards and strategies for mathematics education at the community college level. As he has always been, Professor Gross was a very entertaining speaker who, with his own sense of humor incorporated, shared his vision of the future for mathematics education. I also really enjoyed one of the featured speakers, Billy Hix, who has worked for NASA since 1997 and is a teacher liaison for the Space Foundation. In this capacity he has traveled across the nation to speak to educational groups and the aerospace industry about the need to support STEM and methods to integrate space science into the new common core curriculum. His talk was titled “Math Really Rocks – An Astronomer’s Journey” and he had some very interesting stories to share. An astronomer from Denmark, Tycho Brahe (1546 – 1601) built his own observatory, had a pet moose, thought he was the best mathematician in the world, lost his nose in a duel, and was probably murdered by Kepler for his homework! Another fascinating fact he shared – did you know that Brian May, guitarist of Queen, has a PhD in Astro Physics, the drummer is an acoustical engineer, and the base guitarist is an environmental scientist? The song “We will, we will Rock you!” is all about primes. The “Boom-Boom-Clap” part has something to do with primes – offset the tape - to hear 2, 3, 5, 7, ..., 29 sec. intervals. I haven’t checked that one out yet. Not sure I explained it even close to correctly, but it was fascinating!

At the Delegate Assembly on Saturday there were numerous small changes to the bylaws that have been presented and discussed over the past few years and were finally approved at this conference. One had to do with a couple of states being moved to different regions to even out membership and provide for more proximity in some cases to regional events; the Mid-Atlantic Region was not affected. We also voted on two position papers. First: *The Appropriate Use of Intermediate Algebra as a Prerequisite Course*, supports the development of alternative pathways through developmental mathematics. “The content of intermediate algebra is generally an appropriate prerequisite to algebra-based courses in a calculus-based course of study, but not a universal prerequisite for all college level mathematics courses.” There are numerous *whereases* in the formal statement, but the conclusion is “Prerequisite courses other than intermediate algebra can prepare students for courses of study not leading to calculus.” The other position statement we voted on was much lengthier and more detailed. You may want to access it on the AMATYC website to get further detail, but the topic is *The Academic Preparation of Mathematics Faculty at Two-Year Colleges*. The original position statement on this topic that mathematics faculty have been using as a guideline in their hiring process, as well as to support continuous professional development for both full-time and adjunct faculty, was adopted in 1993, so it was time to revisit that document. Here is a summary of the recommendations:

- Only properly qualified personnel be permitted to teach mathematics.
- Individuals trained in other disciplines should receive sufficient mathematical training prior to teaching mathematics courses.

- All two-year college faculty should possess at least a master's degree in mathematics or related field with at least 18 semester hours in graduate-level courses strongly related to mathematics and at least 6 of which are graduate-level mathematics.
- All full-time mathematics instructors at a two-year college should possess at least a master's degree in mathematics or a related field with at least 30 semester hours in graduate-level mathematics.
- All mathematics faculty should continue their professional development throughout their career.

AMATYC, through the Placement and Assessment Committee, has begun to discuss a position statement on *Time Limits for Course Prerequisites*. Should you be interested in providing input on this topic, I would suggest contacting the committee chair, Behnaz Rouhani (behnaz.rouhani@gpc.edu), at Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, GA.

If you have any questions related to the position statements or other items from the conference, please feel free to contact me for additional information. dashiells@mcc.edu

VMATYC was represented at the Delegate Assembly by
 Mike Kirby – VMATYC President (aka Affiliate President)
 Sandie Dashiell – AMATYC Affiliate Delegate.
 Libby Watts – VA State Delegate
 Harriette Roadman – VA State Delegate



Impressions of the 2014 AMATYC Conference
Mariko Shimizu

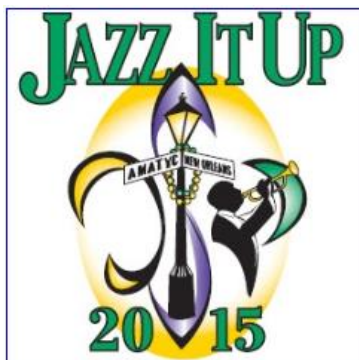
I am extremely fortunate to be the part of VMATYC, having received a grant to attend the AMATYC conference for the last 3 consecutive years. I thank you all for the opportunity this year to again be able to join the AMATYC conference and learn greatly about teaching. I focused on attending “Math Intensive” sessions, because I had my first semester teaching Calculus in Virginia. I have previously taught Calculus in Alabama and Oregon. I have been seeing a lot of difference in the focus of instruction depending on the state in the U.S. The more I see the difference, the more I get interested in why there are such differences. However, I have seen the most common tendency of students in the U.S. is the weakness and unpreparedness in algebra. In the beginning of my teaching Calculus in the U.S, I used to get discouraged with my students with lack of algebra, thinking there is no future for those students. After understanding students through teaching, I began to see my students from a completely different viewpoint. I am aware of the fact that there are students who cannot add integers in Calculus class since all of the students are allowed to use TI calculators. However, I wonder what is the most important and crucial factor in a Calculus class. Here is my conclusion: Being able to use Calculus in real applications is much more valuable than being able to do algebraic manipulation perfectly and quickly, although there are some crucial algebraic concepts that are necessary in order to succeed in Calculus. I am fascinated to find my students comprehending Calculus concepts and doing greatly with the help of TI calculators without having a strong algebraic background. I need to see how they excel in future math courses and applications. I am fully responsible for opening up their potentials. I attended as many Math Intensive sessions as possible:

- “Has the Art of Mathematics Been Lost?”
- “Math Really Rocks- An Astronomer’s Journey”
- “What If Words could Be Controlled?”
- “Cocktail Party Calculus: Collaborative Writing in Mathematics”
- “Infinity: Present but Not Accounted For”
- “Take It to the Limit”
- “Some Insightful Examples for Algebra, Trigonometry, and Calculus”
- “Math Intensive Sharing Session”

Some of the sessions were just fun to watch, but others were extremely practical. I have used some of the ideas presented in my Calculus class this semester. I will share with what I learned at this coming VMATYC conference!

2015 AMATYC Conference

The *41st Annual AMATYC Conference* is scheduled for *Nov. 19-22, 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana*, to be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, in the heart of the Big Easy. The theme is “Jazz It Up”. Although the deadline for submitting proposals and presider applications was February 1, it may be that they will be continuing to accept applications after that date. Check out the website www.amatyc.org.



Judy Williams is the Program Coordinator, so would be an excellent source of additional information (jwilliams@tcc.edu).

There is always a wealth of information available at the national conference. Because it's in New Orleans, it promises to be a lot of fun as well, so as they say in Louisiana:

Laissez les bons temps rouler!

or

Let the good times roll!

Glenn Fox VMATYC Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship Report

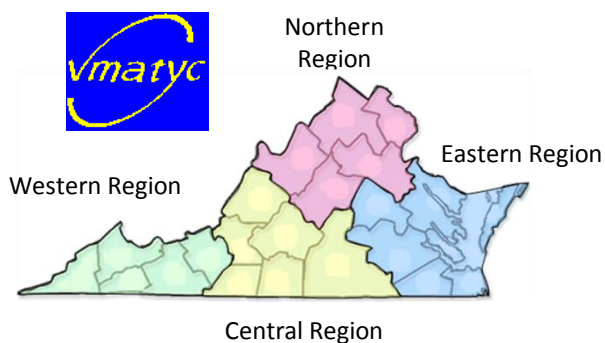
John Gallo

The VMATYC Glenn Fox memorial Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship Committee is seeking qualified applicants for the 2015-2016 academic year. The scholarship award is for \$500 per semester.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must: 1) intend to major in mathematics, computer science, or mathematics education and demonstrate potential for success in any of these areas; 2) demonstrate ability, determination, and motivation necessary for successful academic performance; 3) have completed at least 12 semester hours of college-level courses, including 3 hours of transfer mathematics at a Virginia community college, by the end of the spring semester with a GPA of 3.2 or higher; and 4) continue for two semesters (fall-spring of the award year) at a Virginia community college and enroll in at least 6 semester hours of college-level courses, including a transfer-level mathematics course, for each semester the scholarship is received. Preference is given to those candidates who intend to teach mathematics or computer science.

Specific details concerning the application requirements and process, including the application form, can be found on the VMATYC website. Applicants must complete the application, provide official transcripts of college work, and send three letters of reference. **Applications are due no later than June 5, 2015**, to be mailed to:

John Gallo
Virginia Beach Campus
Tidewater Community College
1700 College Crescent
Virginia Beach, VA 23453



VCCS mathematics and computer science faculty members are urged to identify deserving students who are eligible for the scholarship and make them aware of the scholarship! In particular, those of us teaching precalculus and calculus students in their first year of community college are encouraged to make a special effort to identify promising students and encourage them to apply for the scholarship.

Fall Regional Meetings

Please contact the regional Vice Presidents if you have any questions or need further information.

Western Region Fall Meeting – October 24, 2014

Vice President Jason Lachniet

jlachniet@wcc.vccs.edu

The 2014 Fall Western Region meeting was held on October 24 at Wytheville Community College. Fourteen people were in attendance, representing full time and adjunct faculty from all five colleges in the region. The meeting opened with a social lunch around a large conference room table and then moved into a nearby computer lab classroom for the formal program items. Donna Fender, WCC's Dean of the Transfer and Business Division, provided an official welcome to attendees and thanks to VMATYC for their hard work and dedication. After announcements and informal discussion items, Susan Evans (WCC) presented on changes to the VMATYC-VCCS peer group relationship, followed by a general discussion on this topic. Danny Whited (SWCC) presented on the steps necessary to get an online course QM approved, demonstrating elements of his own courses. Will Galliher (VHCC) presented on the results of his successful effort to create free, open source modules for MTE courses, currently being piloted at VHCC. I believe everyone in attendance had a good experience and all math and computer science faculty, full and part-time, in the region are encouraged to attend next fall's Western region meeting.



Danny Whited presenting at WCC

Northern Region Fall Meeting – November 15, 2014

Vice President Carrie Lowry

cLowry@germanna.edu

We had a great fall meeting at Germanna Community College on November 15th. With over 50 participants, and multiple professional sessions we had a great day and enjoyed connecting with colleagues from our region. I personally look forward to seeing everyone again in March at our State meeting.

Central Region Fall Meeting – November 7, 2014

Vice President Alison Moore

moorea@cvcc.vccs.edu

The Central Region of VMATYC had its fall meeting on Friday, Nov. 7. We met from 3:00-7:00 and had some delicious food from The Olive Garden. We had a small gathering of about 18 people and enjoyed some lively round-table discussions on topics ranging from Developmental Math issues to Credit-Level Math (especially Pre-Calculus). We had a terrific group of educators at this meeting, but we would love to have more!

Eastern Region Fall Meeting – October 24, 2014

Vice President Libby Watts

lwatts@tcc.edu

The Eastern Regional Meeting was held on October 24, 2014 at John Tyler Community College on the Midlothian campus. There were approximately fifty attendees. The meeting lasted about four hours. Sessions were held on pedagogy and technology, as well as other topics. There were also some useful round-table discussions held on various important topics. Attendees enjoyed a catered lunch from Apple Spice Junction.

VMATYC Campus Contacts

In order to help facilitate communication, the following people have agreed to be the local contact for VMATYC at their school/campus.

Western Region:

- Mountain Empire – Chris Allgyer callgyer@me.vccs.edu
- New River – Harriette Roadman hroadman@nr.edu
- Southwest Virginia – Lisa Henley Lisa.Henley@sw.edu
- Virginia Highlands – Pansy Waycaster ewaycaster@vhcc.edu
- Wytheville – Susan Evans sevans@wcc.vccs.edu

Northern Region:

- Blue Ridge – TJ Crow crowt@brcc.edu
- Germanna – Carrie Lowry clowry@germanna.edu
- Lord Fairfax – Frank Borleske fborleske@lfcc.edu
- NOVA Alexandria – Bruce Wahl bwahl@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Annandale – Don Goral dgoral@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Loudoun – Michael Wallace mwallace@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Manassas – Shakil Shrestha sshrestha@nvcc.edu
- NOVA Woodbridge – Camisha Parker cparker@nvcc.edu
- Piedmont – Jon Hexter jhexter@pvcc.edu

Central region:

- Central VA – Alison Moore moorea@cvcc.vccs.edu
- Dabney S. Lancaster – Richard Watkins rwatkins@dslcc.edu
- Danville – Mary Motley mmotley@dcc.vccs.edu
- Patrick Henry – Chris Wikstrom cwikstrom@patrickhenry.edu
- Southside VA – Christy Lowery-Carter christy.carter@southside.edu
- Virginia Western – Cristin Barrett cbarrett@viriniawestern.edu

Eastern Region:

- John Tyler – Ken Williams kwilliams@jtcc.edu
- Rappahannock – Robert Parker rparker@rappahannock.edu
- Reynolds – Ann Loving aloving@reynolds.edu
- Thomas Nelson – Mariko Shimizu shimizum@tncc.edu
- Tidewater Chesapeake – David French dfrench@tcc.edu
- Tidewater Portsmouth – Judy Williams jwilliams@tcc.edu
- Tidewater Virginia Beach – Mike Kirby mkirby@tcc.edu

Colleges in the VMATYC Geographic Regions

<u>Western</u>	<u>Northern</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Eastern</u>
Mountain Empire	Blue Ridge	Central Virginia	Eastern Shore
New River	Germanna	Dabney S Lancaster	J Sargent Reynolds
Southwest Virginia	Lord Fairfax	Danville	John Tyler
Virginia Highlands	Northern Virginia	Patrick Henry	Paul D Camp
Wytheville	Piedmont Virginia	Southside Virginia	Tidewater
		Virginia Western	Thomas Nelson
			Rappahannock