

## OHIO MATYC NEWS

SPRING 2009

**STOLEN FROM ROD'S DESK  
(PRESIDENT OF OHIO MATYC)****SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:**

- **T<sup>3</sup> Regional Conference Registration Form (page 4)**
- **Twitter in the classroom (page 3)**
- **AMATYC Professional Development Opportunities (page 2)**
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Dear Diary,

It is the end of the seventh week of our winter quarter, the “winter solstice” of my enthusiasm/optimism cycle as a two-year college mathematics professor. This Friday was the last day students could drop a class or change to audit status, effectively shielding their GPAs from a poor grade. As is typical, I had a number of office visits from students exercising this option, a task neither of us enjoys. It is an acknowledgement that our common goal of “success” in this class has not been met. Despite the discomfort, I endeavor to make the proceeding more than just signing off on the required paperwork.

For the student, I hope the office visit and ensuing discussion provides insights which they will use to ultimately succeed the next time they take the class. For me, I have the same goal the next time I teach the class. Less nobly, I admit to sometimes consoling my feelings of failure based on what the student reveals. Never have I felt it so important to bring my “A game” to the classroom. We are working with unprecedented numbers of students whose overall mathematics skills are

lower than ever.

Moreover, I am certain that the mathematical knowledge and skills people possess directly impact their employability, income, and a myriad of decisions which affect their lives.

Though it may seem obvious, one realization these talks often reveal is that what a student gets out of class, measured any way you like, varies directly with the efforts/commitment that they put into it, both in terms of quantity as well as quality. It would be fair to say this applies to their instructor as well.

That said I am looking forward to the April OhioMATYC meeting. Sure it will take some work to get ready for it, but improving my knowledge and skills set may mean a few less of those office visits during the seventh week of future quarters.

Well I better sign off for now; I need to work on something for the Spring Newsletter before Andrea steals something from my desk.



## AMATYC OFFERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WRITTEN BY NANCY J. SATTLER, TREASURER OF AMATYC

If you are already an AMATYC member, you know of the great value of the organization. If you have not yet joined AMATYC, now is the time to consider becoming a member of this worthwhile organization.

Did you know that in 2008 AMATYC members were asked to take part in a climate survey? The results of the survey can be found online at <http://www.amatyc.org/Surveys/climatesurvey2008.pdf>. AMATYC members were asked what they considered to be AMATYC's greatest strength. Twenty-four percent of the membership felt the annual conference fit the bill! The 35<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held November 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The early bird conference registration fee is \$340 for AMATYC members. Local events coordinator, Jim Matovina promises a conference with "High Expectations." Because some travel budgets may be frozen next year, AMATYC is putting plans into place to have members register for the fall conference using travel funds for the 2008-09 academic year. You can take advantage of this opportunity by contacting the AMATYC office. The room rate is very reasonable -- \$109!

AMATYC is aware of the fact that travel dollars are limited. In late November, AMATYC offered a webinar on "Emphasizing Conceptual Knowledge of Statistics." Webinars are becoming increasingly popular as a cost effective method

of obtaining professional development. Be sure to watch the AMATYC website (<http://www.amatyc.org/>) for future opportunities.

Another way to share ideas and get new ones is to participate in one of the many AMATYC committees. Many of the committees have newsletters and/or websites. The Developmental Mathematics committee chaired by Jack Rotman, ([rotmani@lcc.edu](mailto:rotmani@lcc.edu)) has a website that can be found at <http://www.devmath.amatyc.org/>. If you are interested in learning more about Mathematics for AAS Programs, go to <http://www.aasmath.amatyc.org> or contact chair Jesse Williford, ([ljwillif@waketech.edu](mailto:ljwillif@waketech.edu)). Placement and Assessment chair, Connie Buller, ([cbuller@mccneb.edu](mailto:cbuller@mccneb.edu)) maintains a website at <http://placement.amatyc.org>. By visiting the AMATYC committee page website at <http://www.amatyc.org/committees/index.htm> you can learn more about all of the many committees.

I hope you take an opportunity to get to know more about AMATYC. If you are not a member, consider joining today. If you would like to learn more about the organization, please email me, Nancy Sattler, at [nsattler@terra.edu](mailto:nsattler@terra.edu). I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.



**T<sup>3</sup> REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 17TH-  
18TH**

**CINCINNATI,  
OHIO**

T<sup>3</sup>—TEACHERS TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY

Teachers Teaching with Technology (T<sup>3</sup>) regional conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, on April 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>. The conference is designed to help educators integrate TI technology into their classrooms. A program has been set with a wide variety of topics, technology levels, and applications. The conference web site, [www.uc.edu/cas/mp/t3/](http://www.uc.edu/cas/mp/t3/), includes a tentative program, registration information, driving directions, accommodations, and con-

tact information.

The conference is reasonably priced at \$40 for Friday and Saturday, \$35 for Saturday only, and is free to pre-service teachers. The cost includes a continental breakfast and box lunch on Saturday, not to mention the great presentations!

The Spring OhioMATYC meeting will be held on Friday evening.



**EXCERPT FROM “TWITTER FOR ACADEMIA”**

Following is an excerpt from David Parry’s 2008 article “Twitter for Academia” <http://academhack.outsidethetext.com/home/2008/twitter-for-academia/>

“I must admit that when I first heard about Twitter I thought it represented the apex of what concerns me about internet technology: solipsism and sound-bite communication. While I obviously spend a great deal of time online and thinking about the potential of these new networked digital communication structures, I also worry about the way that they too easily lead to increasingly short space and time for conversation, cutting off nuance and conversation, and what is often worse how these conversations often reduce to self-centered statements. When I first heard about Twitter I thought, this was the example par excellence of these fears, so for many months I did not investigate it at all. Then I read an article by Clive Thompson at *Wired*. Clive’s article convinced me that perhaps it was worth giving Twitter a try. At this point I have to say, I am so glad that I did. Although I am still beginning to wrap my head around all of its varied uses—I think for the most part Twitter users themselves are still figuring this out—I have been using it for over six months now and come up with some academic uses....

For those who want the quick definition of Twitter, it allows you to broadcast and receive messages

from your computer or cell phone of 140 characters in length, all those who “subscribe” to your broadcast can see your message, called a “tweet,” and you receive messages from all those to whom you subscribe. The key point to remember here is this can get sent to your phone, making it highly mobile.

**Ways to use Twitter in Academia:**

**Class Chatter:** The first thing I noticed when the class started using Twitter was how conversations continued inside and outside of class....

**Classroom Community:** Once students started twittering I think they developed a sense of each other as people beyond the classroom space...

**Instant Feedback:** Because Twitter is always on, and gets pushed to your cell phone if you set it up this way, it is a good way to get instant feedback...

**Follow a Professional:** Students can follow someone else who is on Twitter, who interests them. For example if they are thinking about journalism they should follow NewMediaJim who works for NBC and Tweets about being on Airforce One, covering the Middle East etc....”

*Above excerpt was originally posted by David Parry on January 23, 2008, and is reprinted with permission according to Creative Commons, Attribution-Noncommercial 2.5 Generic*



Newport Aquarium  
Cincinnati, Ohio

“...if they are thinking about journalism they should follow NewMediaJim who works for NBC and Tweets about being on Airforce One, covering the Middle East etc....”

**MESSAGE FROM MICHELLE YOUNKER, OHIOMATYC ACTING PAST PRESIDENT**

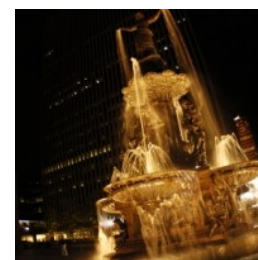
I hope that all is well for you after a start to 2009 that has brought lots of fog, snow, and ice to many of us. Perhaps you are thinking about your spring break. After a long, cold, snowy winter, the arrival of spring is anxiously awaited.

OhioMATYC will hold our spring meeting in conjunction with the T<sup>3</sup> Conference. Please plan to attend the business meeting as your input is vital to our organization. We will be selecting the next president-elect for our organization and also the next secretary. This spring also marks the opportunity for OhioMATYC to recognize one of our members with

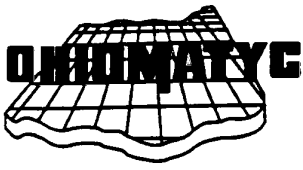
the Distinguished Service Award, and much, much more!

If you have ideas about what you would like to have included in future meetings or are interested in presenting at an upcoming meeting, please let me know. We would love to have your input. Also, consider having your campus host a future OhioMATYC meeting. We try to meet at different schools across the state and would love to visit yours.

Best wishes as this academic year continues and I look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati!



Life is complex. It has real and imaginary components!



## AMATYC OPPORTUNITIES

### OHIO MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

#### OhioMATYC Officers:

Rod Null, President (Rhodes State College)

T.J. Duda, President Elect (Columbus State Community College)

Michelle Younker, Acting Past President (Rhodes State College)

Denise Johansen, Secretary (University of Cincinnati College of Applied Science)

Pat Johnson, Treasurer (The Ohio State University-Lima)

Nancy Sattler, Historian/Webmaster (Terra Community College)

Andrea Faber, Newsletter Editor (Rhodes State College)

- Beyond Crossroads  
Summer Workshop  
June 11-12, 2009  
Cape Cod, MA
- AMATYC Summer Institute  
GAISEing Beyond the Crossroads: Improving Instruction in Introductory Statistics  
July 6-10, 2009  
Boulder, CO
- Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum (MAC3)  
July 11-14, 2009  
Lander, WY

For more information, flyers will be available at the T<sup>3</sup> Conference!

In November 1972, a group of mathematics educators from two-year colleges in Ohio considered the benefits of the formation of an organization which would focus its attention on the professional concerns of mathematics educators at the two-year level. The Ohio Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges (OhioMATYC) was founded in Columbus on April 28, 1973, to respond to these concerns.

OhioMATYC is a state-wide organization composed of two-year college mathematics educators interested in the teaching and learning of mathematics. OhioMATYC holds a meeting in the spring at campuses across Ohio.

## REGISTER FOR T<sup>3</sup> CONFERENCE NOW!

Mail Attn: Ana Vamadeva, University of Cincinnati, 3611 French Hall W., Cincinnati, OH 45221-0205  
(Checks Payable to: OhioMATYC)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: Select One Received by April 3, 2009

Received After April 3, 2009

- \$40 Faculty – Two Days
- \$35 Faculty – Saturday Only
- I am a pre-service Math / Science teacher, my fee is waived. (Present College ID at Registration)
- I am a presenter, my fee is waived.

- \$50 Faculty – Two Days
- \$45 Faculty - Saturday Only
- \$40 Pre-Service Math / Science Teacher

#### Payment Method:

Check Enclosed (Payable to OhioMATYC)

Purchase Order (Attach to Registration Form)