

AMATYC Conference

Notes from AMATYC 26th Annual Conference, Nov. 9-12, 2000,
Chicago, IL



Fall 2000 MATYCONN Meeting, November 17, 2000, Northwestern CC

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Summer in Japan — ICME-9 Presentation
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Articles

Century of Futility in Chicago Baseball
Teaching the New Dog an Old Trick
Learning from the Japanese
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Features

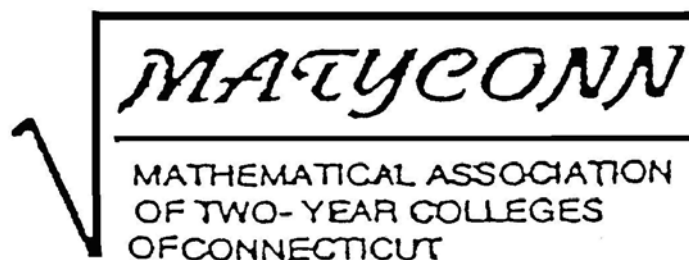
Campus Corner
Favorites: Math Museum

Announcements

Look Who's Coming to MATYCONN (Herb Gross — Spring 2001 Meeting) & Registration
CAMPY
Math Contest

Other Info

Campus Contacts/Officers 2000-2001
Upcoming Conferences, Workshops
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MATYCONN Membership Application



NEWS

Spring 2001

"Chicago, Chicago, it's a heck of a town..."

In November 2000, at least twelve MATYCONN members attended the 26th Anniversary Celebration of AMATYC in Chicago. Chicago area community colleges provided educational and entertainment activities.



We toured the downtown area, walked the Magnificent Mile, and brrrrrr, "strolled" down Lake Shore Drive. Presentations, workshops, meetings, focus-groups, addressing grant writing, teacher prep, and technical education.

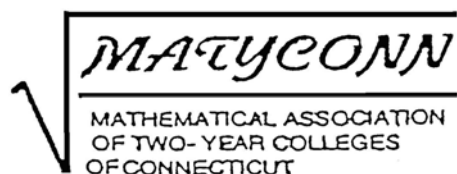
Excellent speakers (Woody Dudley's oh-so-true talk on "Calculus Books," Phil Cheifetz's humorous talk on "A Look to the Past - Suggestion for the Future") provided the opportunities for learning and sharing ideas.

Games (AMATYC history quiz) and skits (performed by Second City Players and audience volunteers) and food galore (banquet, breakfast, lunch) were the basis for entertainment.

What more could one ask for? Good friends, good food, good entertainment. A good time was had by all. See you in Toronto November 15-18, 2001!



AMATYC CONFERENCE



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Conferences/Workshops

NCTM 79th Annual Meeting, "Math World: New Standards for the New Millennium," April 4-7, 2001, Orlando, FL

<http://www.nctm.org/meetings/annuals/orlando>

NEMATYC "A Math Odyssey," April 20-21, 2001, Middlesex Community College, Lowell Campus, MA http://www.bristol.mass.edu/nematyc/nematyc_2001.htm, contact Maureen Woolhouse: woolhouse@middlesex.cc.ma.us

MAA Northeastern Section Dinner Meeting, "The Mathematics inside your Computer," April 17, 2001, Rhode Island College, contact Barry Schiller:

bschiller@ric.edu, (401)456-9654

15th Annual CSU Academic Computing Conference, April 21, 2001, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT <http://www.wcsu.edu/acc2001>

NYSMATYC Spring Conference, April 27-29, 2001, Lake Placid Hilton, contact Beverly Broomell: brome@sunysuffolk.edu

AMS 2001 Spring Eastern Section Meeting, April 28-29, 2001, Hoboken, NJ

http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2056_program.html

MATYCONN Spring Dinner Meeting, May 4, 2001, Gateway Community College, North Haven Campus, 88 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT. Guest speaker is **Herb Gross!**

OCMA Spring Conference, May 31-June 1, 2001, Kemperfelt Conference Center, Bannockburn, Ontario, Canada, contact John Kezys: kezysj@mail.mohawk.on.ca

MAA Northeastern Sectional Meeting, June 8-9, 2001, Norwich University, Northfield, VT

MAA Joint Meeting with Seaway Section, June 21-22, 2002, Williams College, Williamstown, MA

NCTM Regional Conference, October 25-27, 2001, Somerset, New Jersey

<http://www.nctm.org/meetings>

14th Annual International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics,

November 1-4, 2001, Baltimore, MD <http://www.awlonline.com/ictcm/>

AMATYC 27th Annual Conference: November 15-18, 2001, Toronto, Ontario Canada

<http://www.amatyc.org> (note -- not only is the program wonderful, but theater tickets to "The Lion King" and "Mama Mia" are reserved for AMATYC members!)

MAA Northeastern Sectional Meeting, November 16-17, 2001, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, MA

Minutes of SPRING 2000 MATYCONN Meeting
Quinebaug Valley Community College
May 5, 2000

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm on May 5 at Quinebaug Valley Community College by President Steve Krevisky.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Steve K. welcomed Jack Keating, AMATYC Northeast Regional Vice President. Steve K. thanked Bonnie Simon and Elaine Dinto for doing the spring 2000 newsletter.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the 10/22/99 meeting were approved.
3. **Newsletter**—Bonnie Simon said she would like to see more in the “campus corner”. She thanked Elaine Dinto for her work on the newsletter. Elaine recommended visiting the new MATYCONN website through either of two web sites: <http://www.commnet.edu> (select Academic Information) or <http://www.amatyc.org> (select Affiliates). Steve K. encouraged contributions to the newsletter and Judy Marzi recommended people send newsletter info as a word document in an email attachment.
4. **Membership**—Judy Marzi reported that fall 99 membership included 38 people and spring 2000 membership included 48 people. She may send out reminder renewal notices. Judy suggested we consider putting the MATYCONN directory on our website. Betsey Doane moved that the MATYCONN directory with school address info only be put on our website with the option for any member not to be listed. Bob Lynott seconded the motion. Since there was not a quorum at this time, a straw poll was taken, all were in favor. We decided a vote would be taken at dinner. Judy said that if anyone does not want to be listed in the hard copy or on-line directory, Judy will honor that request. Steve K. mentioned that there is an AMATYC membership form in the newsletter. Judy said that we have applied for a \$200 AMATYC affiliate grant. Judy plans to do a big membership drive in fall 2000. If anyone has ideas, let her know.
5. **Report on Math Issues Committee(MIC)**—Alice Grandgeorge said there is information in the newsletter on the common course project. The committee will be continuing their work on this on May 12. Please provide any relevant info to Kathy Bavelas or Pat Hirschy. The next project will involve creating common or similar banner cut-off scores for Accuplacer.
6. **AMATYC Report**—Jack Keating congratulated Elaine Dinto on the MATYCONN website. He said that AMATYC newsletters come out 5-6 times per year and he encourages submissions. He reported the following about AMATYC activities: (1)the 2000 AMATYC conference will be held in Chicago 11/9/00-11/12/00 and the 2001 conference will be in Toronto 11/15/01-11/18/01(to be organized by Northeast Regional)(2) AMATYC Input awards are available for implementing the standards (3)AMATYC is involved in teacher preparation(4)information on the Math Excellence Teaching Awards is in the Jan 00 edition of newsletter (5) John Jacobs of Mass. Bay Community College is thinking about doing a traveling AMATYC workshop. All of this information is on the AMATYC website. Jack encourages people to contact him with any comments. Steve K. asked if anyone is

interested in helping with the “Avenue of the Affiliates” MATYCONN booth at the Nov. meeting in Chicago.

7. **ICME (International Conference on Math Education)Update**—Steve K. will represent MATYCONN at the next conference in July in Japan.

8. **Math Contest**—Steve K. passed out list of 2000 winners. He said some of the campuses had a very low turnout. He will be working with Kunle Olumide on the prizes.

9. **Treasurer’s Report**—Kunle O. passed out the report. Betsey Doane/Marion Egan moved to pass the report. Motion passed.

10. **Minority Scholarship**—Miguel Garcia proposed the following(A) we consider changing MATYCONN bylaws in fall 00 to say that MATYCONN student scholarships be based on mathematical merit--minorities and under-represented students are encouraged to apply. (B) the number and amount of 1-year scholarships be determined in the fall and then applied for in the spring. Miguel also recommended a subcommittee be formed to discuss this and present its finding at our fall meeting—the group agreed to this. Alice Grandgeorge recommended Michael Gyapah, a student at Manchester CC, for a MATYCONN scholarship this year. A motion was made and passed to approve this candidate for a 2000 scholarship. A motion was made and passed to award the recipient \$200.

11. **MATYCONN Timelines and Procedures document**—Steve K. asked that everyone begin to think about the timelines and procedures document and give Steve any suggestions. The document will be discussed at the next executive committee meeting.

12. **Meetings/Conferences**—(A)Steve K. has been in contact with ATOMIC about the possibility of having a joint MATYCONN/ATOMIC meeting. (B)On October 10 & 11, ATOMIC and CT Leadership are sponsoring an NCTM Professor’s Academy conference. It is an institute for grades 9-12 with a focus on moving from standards to changes in practice. Steve K. asked that we consider endorsing this event—a motion was made and passed to do so. (C)Kunle O. offered Northwestern CT CC as host for our fall 2000 meeting.

13. **Election of 2000-2001 Executive Committee**—The following people were elected: President-Miguel Garcia, Vice-President-Bob Lynott, Secretary-Barbara Paskov, Treasurer—Kunle Olumide, Membership Director-Judy Marzi, Math Contest Coordinator-Steve Krevisky, Minority Scholarship Coordinator-Slav Sharapov, Newsletter Editors-Bonnie Simon and Elaine Dinto.

14. **Other Business**—Slav S. is planning to have a mathematical Olympiad to promote mathematical reasoning at Quinebaug Valley CC. He is soliciting interest from high schools and from Quinebaug.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cuddy

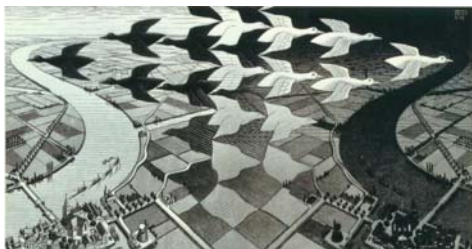
Escher Comes to MATYCONN

On May 5, 2000 Quinebaug Valley Community College, in Danielson, Connecticut, co-hosted the Spring 2000 dinner meeting for members of MATYCONN and the New England Section of the Mathematical Association of America.

After dinner, **Judith Moran** treated participants to an extremely informative presentation. Judy completed her graduate studies at UMASS in Amherst where her research interests were concentrated in discrete geometry. She is Associate Professor of Quantitative Studies and Director of the Math Center at Trinity College in Hartford. In her role as emissary to the college for quantitative literacy, she has created laboratories for courses across the curriculum, including one on the geometry found in Dante's Divine Comedy, another on Mayan calendrics and astronomy, and one on sampling created for an archaeology course. Her chief mathematical interest in discrete geometry has led her to study the works of M.C. Escher.



In 1998 Judy traveled to the Alhambra in Granada, Spain to study tilings that inspired Escher's periodic drawings. Her talk, entitled "How did he do it?" provided information about Escher's life and traced the development of several of Escher's geometrical prints from the original tilings in the Moorish palace, through his sketches, to his transformation of the abstract tilings into the familiar bird and lizard tessellations seen on ties and t-shirts around the world. The entire presentation was beautifully illustrated by reproductions of pictures from Alhambra, Escher's sketches, and complete Escher drawings.



Currently Judy is interested in the symmetries of churches and other monuments in Italy. This semester she is on sabbatical and will travel to Italy to study these.

Student Presents Workshop on "e"

Our first speaker following the MATYCONN Business Meeting at Quinebaug Valley on May 5, 2000, was **Harlan Brothers**. Harlan, a former student of Miguel Garcia from Gateway Community College, North Haven, shared and explained his published research on various ways to represent "e." Harlan's published talk, titled "Exponential Explorations: Inspiring Students with Their Own Contributions to Number Theory," was enlightening and was a tribute to all of the math teachers who inspire students to do some original thinking!

*Minutes of Fall 2000 MATYCONN Meeting
Northwestern Community College
November 17, 2000*

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm on November 17 at Northwestern Community College by Vice-President Robert Lynott.

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Lynn Riser, Northwestern CC dean welcomed all to the college and was pleased the meeting was being held there. She indicated that the president would have been there but was in Florida.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the 5/5/2000 meeting were approved with the following clarifications: M. Guypah spelling correct; RE: #3 – the websites were cited because they allow access to the MATYCONN site from them.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer's report was circulated by Kunle Olumide. Questions were raised regarding number 3 of the report. Kunle will make necessary corrections and submit a corrected report. Motion to table the report (R. Lynott, S. Krevisky).

Kunle reminded all schools to begin getting the monies for the Math Contest.

4. **Membership Update.**

Judy Marzi indicated that Elaine Dinto has put the membership on the MATYCONN website along with campus contacts as well.

Judy reported that the \$200 affiliate grant has been received but paperwork needs to be completed and sent to Jack Keating.

The Fall membership drive was not done during the fall; the practice of keeping people on the membership for a 1 year grace period is to be continued.

R. Lynott raised the issue of whether students could be members of MATYCONN. Discussion ensued: how to increase membership; do the bylaws allow student members?; possibility to send membership information to 4-year institutions' educational departments; MATYCONN to partner with ATOMIC?. ATOMIC has been informally approached to have a joint meeting. It was noted that MAA has students attend and provides parallel activities for and with students. S. Krevisky had contacted ATOMIC President, J. Vuolo regarding this and will pursue this issue further.

M. Garcia appointed an ad hoc committee to address membership issues. R. Lynott, M. Garcia, and S. Krevisky will look into ideas on how to recruit members – faculty as well as students.

R. Lynott questioned whether treasury funds could be used to pay speakers. M. Garcia commented that AMATYC and MAA have a speaker's bureau. Perhaps Herb Gross could be the speaker for the spring meeting.

J. Marzi resigned as membership chair. Judy will get the directory up to date prior to turning over this function. This announcement was met with dismay from the

organization. Judy will be missed for her sparkle, camaraderie, and professionalism that she has brought to the table in many capacities over the past years. Judy's friends and colleagues at MATYCONN wish her the best in her new endeavors.

5. **Math Contest.** S. Krevisky reported that the contest will be Saturday April 7, 2001. He also solicited help in developing problems for the contest and in recruiting students. Reminder: send your school's \$50 registration to K. Olumide.

6. **Newsletter Update.** B. Simon reported that due to lack of receipt of information no newsletter has been published. When sending information email or via disk is the preferred method of transmittal. S. Krevisky suggested that the minutes be included in the newsletter. Additionally, Steve stated that the information for this meeting was late in coming and that procedures and timelines should be followed.

M. Garcia complimented E. Dinto on the website design, content, etc.

7. **Math Issues/Common Numbering.** M. Garcia commented that this endeavor seems to be coming to an end and that we should be proud of the work that has been done. The level of thoroughness and professionalism exhibited has been an achievement.

B. Simon indicated at a meeting that day she heard that outcomes are to be put up on the web and when new courses are proposed they would be used to determine the 80% criteria.

8. **System Senate Report.** S. Krevisky spoke to this issue. The intent is to discuss academic and professional issues that transcend all campuses. On December 8 the senate will meet with the chancellor regarding recognition of the System Senate and to help local governance efforts.

9. **NEMATYC and NYSMATYC Spring meetings.** NEMATYC : April 20-21, 2001; NYSMATYC: April 27-28, 2001.

10. **MATYCONN Spring 2001 meeting.** Friday May 4, 2001 at Gateway CC was selected for the spring meeting. M. Garcia and S. Krevisky will pursue getting Herb Gross as the speaker. Having the winners of the math contest present and acknowledged was discussed.

11. **Other Business.** S. Krevisky noted that many members were at the Chicago AMATYC Conference in November; next year's meeting is in Toronto. Steve expressed concern regarding the establishing of a practice of having a committee review AMATYC meeting minutes without public approval.

E. Dinto asked when there will be an executive board meeting.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Submitted by,
Barbara Paskov

Pre-dinner entertainment, Fall 2000 meeting —

"How to do Math on the Web"

Barbara Caserta, Naugatuck Valley CC, demonstrated "MathType" version 4.0 program. Overview: The Equation Editor available in Microsoft products is actually a scaled-down version of the MathType program. Some of the benefits of the full version of MathType include:

- Minimal learning curve
- Almost double the number of symbols as in Equation Editor
- Equations may be saved as .GIF files with optional automatic numbering
- A MathType Equation saved as a .GIF file may be re-opened, edited in the MathType editor and saved again as a .GIF file
- Automatic Equation Numbering in Word
- Latex and MathML output
- Customizable Equation Toolbar

Web site: <http://www.mathtype.com/>

Academic Price: \$99

Barbara also briefly described "Scientific Notebook"

- Latex-based word processor
- Performs mathematics (Maple engine)
- Has a substantial learning curve
- Has free viewer available

Web site: <http://www.scinotebook.com>

Academic Price: \$129



Bob Lynott, Naugatuck Valley CC, demonstrated the use of an e-Pack for a distance or web-enhanced course. E-Packs are provided by the publishers for many textbooks and are available in either WebCT or Blackboard form, the two most common web shells. In the e-Pack the instructor gets textbook specific material including: chapter objectives, a PowerPoint presentation, an online student solution manual, technology projects, self-check quizzes and instructor editable quizzes for each chapter. Also provided is a home page for the course with links for private mail, a calendar with assignment and test schedules, a drop box for distributing and collecting tests, student progress and student grades. Within this framework it is relatively easy to add your own links. Some of the links added for Elementary Statistics are class notes, excel help, excel solutions to homework problems, teacher developed PowerPoints, and a suggestions link to help students succeed in a distance course. To get more information and see the e-Packs available for WebCT, go to <http://www.webct.com/content/>.

Summer 2000 in Japan – An ICME-9 Presentation

by Steve Krevisky

I was very fortunate to receive an NCTM Travel Grant to attend the 9th International Congress on Math Education (ICME-9), which took place in Makuhari, east of Tokyo, from July 31 to August 6, 2000. Since I had already been in China for over 2 weeks, I was used to Asia by the time I arrive in Japan. I had the chance to sightsee in Kyoto and Nara, 2 of the ancient capitals of Japan, prior to going to the conference.

On Monday, July 31, the first day of the conference, the travel grant awardees met to discuss various issues, including a summary of our responsibilities, both at the conference and afterwards. We then participated in the Opening Session. I felt great pride in being in Japan for this event, my 3rd ICME. We were welcomed by various Japanese officials and Congress organizers, and heard several plenary addresses.

My main focus at this Congress was the Working Group on Two-Year Colleges and other Tertiary Institutions. The Chief Organizer was Marilyn Mays, who is a past President of AMATYC. She was assisted by other organizers, who were from Japan, Uganda, and other Asian countries. On the first day that we met, Tuesday, August 1, we heard presentations from math educators from such countries as Singapore, New Zealand, Uganda, Japan, Taiwan, and the U.S. We received an overview of what was going on in each country, finding out, for example, that Singapore is based upon the British system. We also heard individual presentations from speakers on various topics in math education, such as on training teachers.

On Wednesday, August 2, we split into two groups, one covering Remedial and Developmental Math, and the other on Advanced and Engineering Math Courses. Today was my day to take notes and submit them to Professor Fran Curcio, the coordinator of the Travel grant awardees. These daily reports would be sent back to a Web Site in the US for daily posting. I covered the Remedial and Developmental group, taking notes on what we heard. People presented on such issues as the need for more exactness and rigor in our math courses, how students respond to learning fractions, teaching in context, and so forth.

We took a break on Thursday, August 3 with Congress excursions to various places. I was on a group which went to Mt. Fuji, a sacred site for the Japanese. Unfortunately, there were clouds over the mountain most of the day, but we did get some good views of the sunset over it on the way back. We did have a nice boat ride on Lake Ashi, as well as a good ride up a ropeway to get some nice vistas of the area, including of Fuji.

The group on two-year colleges reconvened on Saturday, August 5. The purpose was to discuss common issues and problems and ways that we could continue to work together. We found that we had similar problems, such as students' lack of preparation, the need for professional development, to use technology appropriately, and so forth. I pushed for us to dialogue with our Japanese and other counterparts, so as to learn from them. I also got to present my paper on how our Math Contests works, which was nice to do.

I also participated in a Topic Group on Mathematics Competitions, which seemed natural for me in my role as Math Contest Coordinator. I hoped to find out what others were doing in this area. While there were a few presentation of some value, overall, it was disappointing because it turned into an MAA type meeting, with people presenting math problems of interest to them, but it wasn't what I wanted.

Overall, being in Japan for the ICME was a very good experience. The Japanese are very fine people, and I also met some good people from other countries, such as South Korea, Swaziland, Venezuela, and South Africa. The camaraderie was good, and this was one of the best parts of the conference. I learned some Japanese, enjoyed going to a Japanese baseball game, and navigated the Tokyo subway system while doing some sightseeing. I was glad to be there, and it was very hard to come home again after meeting such wonderful people. In 4 years, the ICME will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, and perhaps we can have a MATYCONN delegation there! Sayonara!

Post-dinner entertainment, Fall 2000 meeting—

Can you go from ONE to TWO?

ONE → OWE → EWE → EYE → DYE → DIE → TIE → TOE → TOO → TWO



Jill Zimmerman, Professor of Mathematics at Manchester Community College, recently completed her master's thesis at Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. Her interests compelled her to research Lewis Carroll. Her thesis is entitled "The Legacy of the Mathematics of Lewis Carroll." Because of the exemplary work she presented in this document, Jill's advisor at Wesleyan has been encouraging her to publish her work.

Jill's dinner presentation at the Fall 2000 MATYCONN Meeting on November 17, at Northwestern Community College in Winsted, was a perfect complement to dinner.

During a brief history on the life and times of Lewis Carroll, we revisited tales from our childhood as we mentally joined Alice at Tea with the Mad Hatter ("Take some more tea," the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly. "I've had nothing yet," Alice replied in an offended tone: "so I can't take more." You mean you can't take *less*," said the Hatter: "it's very easy to take *more* than

nothing" (from "A Mad Tea Party"/Alice's Adventures in Wonderland). We then became thoroughly engaged in playing games of "Doublets." Here are the rules for those of you who would like to "evolve MAN from APE." (Turn over for one possible answer.)

.....
Lewis Carroll's Game of DOUBLETS
Form the second capitalized word from the first.
Change only one letter of the first to form a new word.
Repeat until you have formed the second word.
The winner is the person who forms the chain with the fewest number of intermediate links.
.....
Evolve MAN from APE.
.....

MAN → MAT → OAT → OUT → OPT → APT → APE

CAMPY, the new Community College Adventure



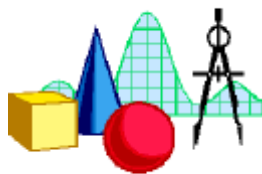
Kathleen Bavelas, Manchester CC, reports that the one new big Community College adventure that has just begun and is in its early planning stages is that the Connecticut Community Colleges, in conjunction with **CAMPY** (CT Association for Mathematically Precocious Youth), are planning a day of workshops for grade 5 - 8 students who have demonstrated an interest in mathematics. On May 17, 2002, we will offer workshops on 6 of our 12 campuses. We are planning to have six two-and-one-half hour workshops in the morning and six in the afternoon at each of the six to be identified community college locations throughout

the state. Sessions will involve students in hands-on activities or have students apply prior skills and knowledge to new situations or mathematics content that is unfamiliar. In the past, students have used CBL's, graphing calculators and computer simulations to enhance their learning experiences. We will need many workshop presenters. It should be a great experience!

If interested in presenting on May 17, 2002, or in experiencing this event *live* on May 10, 2001, at Wesleyan University, please go to the MATYCONN website (<http://155.43.16.5/matyconn>) and look for the CAMPY link under Announcements.

Math Contest

On April 7, 2001 MATYCONN will hold its 11th Annual Math Contest. Prizes are awarded to the 3 highest scorers in the State. Individual College prizes are awarded too.



Check It Out! Math Museum

There's a great interactive Mathematics Museum on the web. The URL is <http://www.mathsyear2000.org/museum/outside.html>. Lots of fun to visit for pleasure, and has enough variety that lessons can be built around some of the features.



Teaching the new dog an old trick...



From **Asnuntuck – Factoring Review**

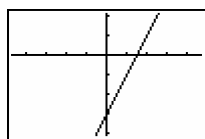
Pat Hirschy writes that she was trying to figure out how to review factoring in her Intermediate Algebra class. "Visions from days past of high-stressed student faces next to bored-out-of-mind student faces danced in my head. I typed out an outline listing the types of factoring, identifying characteristics, and a worked out example and saved this page for my own use. I then typed out an 'empty outline' of the headings (types of factoring, identifying characteristics, and example) and listed on a second page the answers written in random order. I organized my students into small groups and gave them the assignment of filling in the correct types, characteristics, and examples on the empty outline. I think the idea definitely has potential!"

From **Naugatuck Valley – Functionality**

Elaine Dinto writes that she's figured out a way to "not to do all the work myself" when trying to get students to make connections among different representations of functions. "Well, more accurately, I borrowed the idea from Darlene Whitkanack, University of Illinois, Chicago. I made up cards with equivalent representations of some functions, one with data, another a graph, an equation, a word problem, or a function machine. Students each receive a card, and must find all other students whose cards represent the same function as theirs.

For example, cards for a linear function may contain the following:

- (1) My dream: I invest my money, it doubles, and all I pay is a \$3 commission
- (2) $2x - y = 3$;
- (3) (10, 17), (20, 37), (30, 57), (50, 97)
- (4) To determine the output of the function, multiply the input by 2, then subtract 3; and
- (5)



Window --
[-4.7, 4.7] by [-4.1, 2.1]

The activity was a nice change of pace for all involved!"



Reaching New Heights: A Century of Futility in Chicago Baseball —

a presentation by MATYCONN's *Steve Krevisky*, Middlesex CC, at the AMATYC 26th Annual Conference, 11/09/00

The history of baseball shows that Chicago teams can boast of such luminaries as Hack Wilson, Ernie Banks, Sammy Sosa, Three-Fingered Brown, Luke Appling, Nellie Fox, Early Wynn, and many more. However the Sox have not won the World Series since 1917, and the Cubs have not won since 1908! In his presentation, Steve shared with participants an examination of not only the history, but also the statistics of baseball in Chicago, shedding light on why Chicago baseball has reached the heights of futility.



Learning from the Japanese by *Steve Krevisky*

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2000, I had the unique opportunity to attend a LESSON STUDY open house at the Japanese School in Greenwich, CT. People from all over the country were here to observe lessons taught by Japanese instructors to students of varying ages. We had the chance to hear and participate in discussions about pedagogy, lesson planning, collaboration among teachers, and so forth. Since I had attended the recent ICME-9 in Japan last summer, I thought I would enjoy seeing this.

I first saw a second grade lesson, where the students were completing a unit on geometric shapes. There were 5 tables, or stations, with drawing and tracing materials and other things on them. The teachers would play music (the Mickey Mouse theme!) and the students would move from one station to another. They would then trace out different shapes, put stickers on various shapes, or toss a die to see what their next move would be. It was fun to watch these adorable children in action. At the end, they came together to summarize what took place. I really enjoyed this!

We then saw a 7th grade unit, where the students found different ways of finding the surface area of a cone. The instructor motivated this by passing out “party hats,” shaped like a cone, and explained that if you unfold the hat, you have a sector, whose area=the surface area of cone. The students measured angles and distances and found the answer in a variety of ways.

After lunch, we came together to hear a fascinating discussion about how the 7th grade teacher planned his lessons, with detailed commentary by his colleagues. We were able to ask questions, and we saw the collaborative efforts involved in making the concepts clear and involving the students.

Finally, different speakers reacted to what they saw, which was a fascinating process very different from what we normally see and do. The teaching is visible and “public,” and is very collegial and collaborative. We can learn from what other countries do, and we might want to consider trying out some of these methods for ourselves!

Campus Corner

From Capital Community College -- *Kathy Cuddy* reports:

The Capital Community College Foundation hosted its first ever Taste of Capital event in downtown Hartford. The purpose was to raise funds for a new endowment fund for quality programs and improved access to higher education in the heart of the Capital city. The event was held on Wednesday, March 21 from 6-9 p.m. in the Hartford City Hall Atrium. It included cuisine from around the world, including a selection of Hartford's best ethnic dishes, a silent auction of goods and services, and music and entertainment reflecting Capital's diversity.

From Housatonic Community College -- *Betsey Doane* reports:

John Vangor, a dedicated math/science department chair for 20 years, is retiring in June. Congratulations to John!

From Manchester Community College -- *Barbara Paskov* reports:

This spring semester, Manchester CC is extremely excited and pleased to welcome *Marlene Megos* as an adjunct mathematics faculty member. Marlene recently received her National certification in Adolescence and Young Adulthood Mathematics. Marlene is the first person in Connecticut to attain this achievement. She also teaches at EO Smith High School in Storrs, CT and part-time at Sawyer Business School. The MCC community welcomes Marlene and congratulates her.

Professor *Kathleen Peters* has a new undertaking. Kathy is one of two Teaching and Learning Consultants at MCC. She and Barbara Place, professor of languages, are coordinating activities that provide opportunities for faculty to improve their teaching.

A team of faculty from various disciplines at Manchester CC have been working over the past year or so on developing a new program offering for prospective elementary/middle school teachers. The program will prepare students for transfer to 4-year institutions where they will complete their studies in order to become certified teachers. It is intended to be unique and to have emphasis in the mathematics/sciences fields. New courses have been developed; some have been offered already.

From Middlesex Community College -- *Alice Burstein* reports:

The ATOMIC (Associated Teachers of Mathematics in Connecticut) Board will be meeting at Middlesex on May 2, 2001, and MATYCONN's own *Kathy Bavelas* will join the ATOMIC Board as Higher Education Representative. *Alice* continues to be on the Board serving as the Science Fair Representative.

Speaking of the Science Fair – Judging was March 13-15. Part of Alice’s job for ATOMIC is coordinating the mathematics judging. Participating in the judging this March were MATYCONN members *Sandy Adelstein*, *Steve Krevisky*, and *Alice*.

Middlesex has a new president, *Dr. Wilfredo Nieves*, who received his Doctor of Education Degree from Rutgers State University in New Jersey. His Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics provided the foundation to teach mathematics in the 70’s; and we hear he has taught statistics.

From Norwalk Community College -- *Marilyn Seman* reports:

The Academic Festival on April 4, 2001 is a school-wide event. *Marilyn Seman* is participating in the “College Bowl,” which is patterned after the old television show.

From Naugatuck Valley Community College -- *Bonnie Simon* reports:

A new Geometry course is being offered using Geometer’s Sketchpad in a multimedia laboratory.

Barbara Caserta shared her WebCT presentation at the New Comp Conference on March 19-20, 2001 in Worcester, Mass.

On February 10, 2001 the MATHCOUNTS Competition was held. NVCC’s *Sandy Pettinico* and *Tony Pruchnicki* partnered with the National Society of Professional Engineers in an effort to promote excellence in mathematics. Students from 15 junior high schools in the Greater Waterbury Area assembled at NVCC to compete for prizes.

From Quinebaug Valley Community College -- *Marion Egan* reports:

MATYCONN’s newest member has arrived! *Slav and Melissa Sharapov* had an 8.5 pound baby boy on Friday, February 16, 2001. Baby named Ruslan, mother, and father are all doing well. Slav and Melissa thank everyone for welcoming their son into this world, and appreciate everyone’s thoughtfulness.



Ruslan dancing

REFLECTIONS AND STATISTICS ON THE NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

A presentation for the Saturday Math Academy at Middlesex CC, March 24, 2001
By Professor Steve Krevisky, Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT

The NCAA College Basketball tournament is one of the most exciting times of the year, coming just before Opening Day of the Baseball season. Many of us get caught up in “March Madness,” as we try to predict our Final Four. However, this is not such an easy task, as upsets often abound in the First and Second Rounds. Many #1 Seed or #1 ranked teams fall before they reach the Final Four. I was fortunate to be able to see all 6 First and Second Round West Regional NCAA Tournament games in Tucson in March, 2000. I ALSO SAW 5 GAMES IN MEMPHIS AT THE SOUTH REGIONAL TOURNAMENT AT THE PYRAMID IN MARCH 2001. I will offer some observations about this great experience, as well as provide some statistics about this tournament. You will then get to predict the results of the 1986 tournament, where an 11 seed made the Final Four!

We begin with Chart #1, which examines past NCAA Tournament winners, their seed, and their poll rank prior to the start of the tournament.

| CHART #1 TABLE OF PAST NCAA TOURNAMENT WINNERS | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| TEAM | YEAR | REGIONAL | SEED | POLL RANK |
| Mich. St. | 2000 | Midwest | 1 | 2 |
| UConn | 1999 | West | 1 | 3 |
| Kentucky | 1988 | South | 2 | 5 |
| ARIZONA | 1997 | Southeast | 4 | 13** |
| Kentucky | 1996 | Midwest | 1 | 2 |
| UCLA | 1995 | West | 1 | 1 |
| Arkansas | 1994 | Midwest | 1 | 2 |
| UNC | 1993 | East | 1 | 4 |
| Duke | 1992 | East | 1 | 1 |
| Duke | 1991 | Midwest | 2 | 6 |
| UNLV | 1990 | West | 1 | 2 |
| Michigan | 1989 | Southeast | 3 | 10** |
| Kansas | 1988 | Midwest | 6** | unranked** |
| Indiana | 1987 | Midwest | 1 | 3 |
| | 1986 | | | |
| Villanova | 1985 | Southeast | 8** | unranked** |

We can thus see that, since the NCAA tournament went to its current format in 1985, the top ranked team or seed doesn't always win. In fact, there's a very good chance that the team ranked #1 in the last poll in March, prior to the start of the tournament, will fail to make the Final Four!!

| CHART #2 OUTCOME FOR #1 RANKED TEAM | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| YEAR | TEAM | OUTCOME IN NCAA TOURNAMENT |
| 2000 | Duke | Lost to Florida in Sweet 16 (East) |
| 1999 | Duke | Lost to UCONN in Championship Game |
| 1998 | UNC | Lost in Final Four |
| 1997 | Kansas | Lost to ARIZONA in SE Regional Semi-Final |
| 1996 | UMass | Lost to Kentucky in Final Four |
| 1995 | UCLA | Won NCAA Championship ** |
| 1994 | UNC | Lost to BC in Round 2 |
| 1993 | Indiana | Lost to Kansas in Regional Final |
| 1992 | Duke | Won NCAA Championship ** |
| 1991 | UNLV | Lost in Final Four |
| 1990 | Oklahoma | Lost to UNC in Round 2 |
| 1989 | Arizona | Lost to UNLV in West Region Semi-Final |
| 1988 | Temple | Lost to Duke in East Region Final |
| 1987 | UNLV | Lost in Final Four |
| 1986 | | |
| 1985 | Georgetown | Lost in Championship Game ** |

From this chart, we see a wide range of performances by the pre-tournament #1 ranked team. Pick these teams for the Final Four only with great caution!! Also, the PROBABILITY of these teams winning the whole enchilada is rather low!!

Prior to 1985, the highest seeds had a 1st round bye, which made things easier for them. Thus, we will continue to concentrate on 1985 to the present. We see from above that some low seeds have done well in the tournament, sometimes advancing to the Sweet 16, and even the Final Four! In this next chart, we examine the Final Four teams by listing their seeds and their regions.

| CHART #3 FINAL FOUR TEAMS, THEIR SEEDS AND REGIONS | |
|---|--|
| YEAR | TEAMS, SEEDS, REGIONS |
| 2000 | Mich. St. (1-Midwest), Florida (5-East), Wisconsin (8-West), UNC (8-South) |
| 1999 | UConn (1-West), Duke (1-East), Mich. St. (1-Midwest), Ohio St. (4-South) |
| 1998 | Kentucky (2-South), Utah (3-West), Stanford (3-Midwest), UNC (1-East) |
| 1997 | ARIZONA (4-SE), Kentucky (1-West), Minnesota (1-Midwest), UNC (1-East) |
| 1996 | Kentucky (1-Midwest), Syracuse (4-West), Miss. ST. (5-SE), UMass (1-East) |
| 1995 | UCLA (1-West), Arkansas (2-Midwest), Oklahoma St. (4-East), UNC (2-SE) |
| 1994 | Ark. (1-Midwest), Duke (2-SE), ARIZONA (2-West), Florida (3-East) |
| 1993 | UNC (1-East), Michigan (1-West), Kentucky (1-SE), Kansas (2-Midwest) |
| 1992 | Duke (1-East), Mich. (6-SE), Indiana (2-West), Cincinnati (4-Midwest) |
| 1991 | Duke (2-MW), Kansas (3-SE), UNC (1-E), UNLV (1-W) |
| 1990 | UNLV (1-W), Duke (3-E), Ga. Tech. (4-SE), Ark. (4-MW) |
| 1989 | Mich. (3-SE), Seton Hall (3-W), Duke (2-E), Illinois (1-MW) |
| 1988 | Kansas (6-MW), Oklahoma (1-SW), ARIZONA (1-W), Duke (2-E) |
| 1987 | Indiana (1-MW), Syracuse (2-E), Providence (6-SE), UNLV (1-W) |
| 1986 | |
| 1985 | Villanova (8-SE), Georgetown (1-E), Memphis St. (2-MW), St. John's (1-W) |

In the above chart, reading from left to right, the team listed on the far left won it all. The team listed immediately to the right lost in the championship game. We note how many lower seeds have done well in the tournament. For example, Villanova beating Georgetown in 1985 was considered a big upset! This year, in 2000, two #8 seeds and a #5 seed reached the Final Four! In 1988, Kansas was unranked before the tournament!

Speaking of upsets, expect them to occur almost every year, mostly in the First or Second Rounds (this year, they were in the second round, but a number of 1st round games could have been upsets!). Here is a chart of some of my favorites!

| CHART #4 FIRST OR SECOND ROUND UPSETS | |
|--|--|
| YEAR | NATURE OF UPSET |
| 2000 | GONZAGA ** (10) knocks off Louisville (7) and St. John's (2) in the West Regional, and I was there to see it!! NORTHERN ARIZONA (15) came very close to beating St. John's in the first round! PEPPERDINE (11) took out Indiana(6)-I liked that! UNC (8) upset Stanford (1) in the second round in the South. Wisconsin (8) knocked out ARIZONA (1) in the West. |
| 1999 | GONZAGA (10) beats Minnesota (7) and Stanford (2) before falling to UConn in the Regional Final. WEBER STATE (14) upsets UNC (3) in the first round! Detroit (12) upsets UCLA (5) in the first round! SW Missouri State (12) reaches the Sweet 16! |
| 1998 | Western Michigan (11) beats Clemson (6) in the first round. |
| 1997 | College of Charleston (12) over Maryland (5), UT Chattanooga (14) over Georgia (3), Coppin State (15) over South Carolina (2).** |
| 1996 | Princeton (13) over UCLA (4). |
| 1995 | Miami of Ohio (12) over ARIZONA (5), Manhattan (13) over Oklahoma (4), Old Dominion (14) over Villanova (3), Weber St. (14) over Mich. St. (3). |

Finally, I'd like you to form small groups and predict the 1986 Final Four, with the hint that the seeds who reached it were: 1, 1, 2, 11. Good luck!!

I hope you enjoyed this, and give me your thoughts on these issues!

Highlights from Math Issues Committee Meeting, 02/09/01 Gateway Community College, North Haven Campus, Room 207

Present: Kathy Bavelas (Manchester), Alice Burstein (Middlesex), Elaine Dinto (Naugatuck Valley), Miguel Garcia (Gateway), Alice Grandgeorge (Manchester), Kathy Cuddy Herron (Capital), Linda Musco (Middlesex), Barbara Paskov (Manchester), Marilyn Seman (Norwalk)

Kathy Bavelas brought the meeting to order at 11:00.

1. In a letter to Alice B., Dr. Karen Grosz said that she is looking for representatives from various system committees for the September 21, 2001, Professional Day. Miguel will contact Dr. Grosz to let her know that the Math Issues Committee is interested in assisting.
2. Kathy B. updated the committee on the system Common Numbering Project. She sent the final report to Dr. Phil Cocchiola on December 11, 2000; he responded by congratulating her, as Chair, on a “magnificent project” and stated that he was very pleased with the committee’s work! As of February 9, 2001, there has been no feedback regarding the Committee's recommended Accuplacer cut score bands; the Committee would still be happy to make adjustments to the scores if something else is needed.
3. The Committee discussed data some members brought to the meeting on students, including their grades in Prealgebra and/or Elementary Algebra, whose Accuplacer Arithmetic scores were less than 30 or from 31-49 inclusive. Also comments from math faculty at some colleges were shared with the group. Some faculty believe that there are some students who score very low on the Accuplacer Arithmetic exam, and fail Prealgebra a number of times, that we (CC Math Departments) truly cannot help; they believe these students would perhaps be better served in an Adult Education program. Other faculty believe that if we set a minimum score to enter into our Prealgebra classes, the college would no longer have an open door admissions policy.
4. Kathy B. announced that May 17, 2002, will be the day for the community colleges to host CAMPY workshops for mathematically talented students, grades 5-8. Six campuses from across the state will be selected to host. Presenters and “floaters” are needed (there should be 6 or 12 presentations per school); approximately 120 students will participate at each school. Kathy will get more information to the committee, including a list of topics from previous years’ sessions, to give us ideas. Each workshop should be 2.5 hours and should engage the students. This will be a wonderful opportunity to showcase our campuses and our faculty, and an excellent recruitment effort. In the past, Wesleyan has provided this one-day workshop each year. Faculty who are interested in how the day works are welcome to attend Wesleyan’s workshops for urban high school students or their professional day for teachers, both on March 21. Ideas should be e-mailed to Kathy B.

Miguel Garcia conducted the remainder of the meeting.

5. Committee members commented on whether or not their campuses would have any difficulty with implementation of the Intermediate Algebra prerequisite for math courses for transfer to the CSU’s, beginning in the Fall, 2001. Campuses have been addressing this issue for two years as part of the Common Numbering Project. However a problem still exists at one campus because their small population will not support two parallel tracks. At other campuses, a potential problem exists for those students who left their math courses until the end of their program.
6. Next scheduled meeting: Friday, April 27, 10:30-12:30, at Middlesex.
Tentative agenda includes (1) articulation and transfer programs, (2) response to Dr. Grosz’s placement issues (if any), (3) tech prep (Committee members should learn what’s happening on our own campuses in the meantime). Other agenda items should be sent to Miguel.

Miguel adjourned the meeting at 1:00.

Submitted by Elaine J. Dinto

Look WHO's coming to MATYCONN!*

Are you?

Herb Gross

Herb Gross has over 40 years of teaching experience in diverse settings ranging from Central Prison's Death Row in Raleigh, North Carolina to MIT's Centers for Advanced Engineering Study where he produced the critically acclaimed video course "Calculus Revisited." He has a long list of achievements in the area of community college mathematics. Among his accomplishments are the following:



- Founding head of the Mathematics Department at Corning (NY) Community College (1958 to 1968); pioneer in distance learning (1959).
- Founding president of the New York State Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges (1967); founding president of AMATYC (1974).
- Senior Lecturer at the MIT Center for Advanced Engineering Study (1968-1973); developed the "Calculus Revisited" program now used by over 50,000 scientists, engineers and technicians on six continents.
- Founding Chairperson (1973) of the Mathematics Department, and still professor, at Bunker Hill Community College, Boston.
- Named as the nation's *Outstanding Community College Instructor* by the American Association of Community College Trustees (1986).
- Helped the state of Minnesota establish a Center for Excellence in Teaching, as special consultant to the Chancellor of the Community College System (1988).
- Instituted a special version of the present "Gateway to Arithmetic" program (endorsed by both the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges and the Department of Corrections, summers, 1989-1993), as a unique vehicle for improving students' self-image as well as their mathematical skills.
- Recognized (since 1996) by the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation in Chicago, from whom he receives an annual grant to facilitate his work in developmental mathematics.

***May 4, 2001, Gateway C.C., North Haven Campus**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE
MATYCONN
2001 Spring Dinner Meeting
Gateway Community College
North Haven, CT
Friday, May 4, 2001

Schedule for the day

- 2:00-3:00 Registration, Social Hour and Vendor Displays
 (2:00-4:00 Vendors will also showcase additional products, software, etc.)
- 3:15-4:15 Business Meeting
- 4:30-5:30 “The Future Never Was What It Used to Be: The Calculus of Everyday Life”,
 Herb Gross, Guest Speaker
- 5:45-7:30 Dinner and Conversations with Herb Gross, founding president of
 AMATYC

Name _____
College _____ Position at College _____
College Address _____
College Phone _____ Email _____
Home Address _____
Home Phone _____ Email _____

- _____ \$10 registration for members (munchies/no dinner)
_____ \$20 registration for members (munchies & dinner)
_____ \$15 registration for guest of member (munchies & dinner)
_____ \$20 registration for nonmembers (munchies/no dinner)*
_____ \$30 registration for nonmembers (munchies & dinner)*
 *Includes MATYCONN membership through September 2002.
_____ Contribution to the MATYCONN Scholarship Fund
_____ **Total enclosed** _____ **Check here if membership form is attached**
(Overpayments are automatically deposited to the MATYCONN Scholarship Fund.)

Make check payable to MATYCONN and mail with this completed form to
Kunle Olumide, Treasurer
243 Bounty Way
Windsor, CT 06095

Questions may be directed to Kunle (860-738-6372) or Miguel (203-285-2358).
**PLEASE MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS by April 15, 2001. Dinner cannot be
guaranteed if payment is not received.**

MATYCONN Nominating Committee's

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

President: Bob Lynott (Naugatuck Valley)

Write-in _____

Vice President: Vacant

Write-in _____

Secretary: Barbara Paskov (Manchester)

Write-in _____

Treasurer: Vacant

Write-in _____

Membership Chair: Vacant

Write-in _____

Math Contest Coordinator: Steve Krevisky (Middlesex)

Write-in _____

Minority Scholarship Coordinator: Slav Sharapov (Quinebaug Valley)

Write-in _____

Newsletter Editor: Bonnie Simon (Naugatuck Valley) and Elaine Dinto (Naugatuck Valley)

Write-in _____

Web Master: Elaine Dinto (Naugatuck Valley)

Write-in _____

"Vacant" has too many nominations; please volunteer your name as a substitution.

