

Inside this issue:

New Faculty and Staff	3
Annual Math Contest	7
Steve Krevinsky's Odyssey	10
Great Ideas	11
Upcoming Conferences	12

From the President

Fall is here and change surrounds us! The autumn season delights me with its new colors, foods, textures, and activities. The changes brought on by legislators and budget constraints are a bit more challenging to embrace, yet I find inspiration in the ideas offered by colleagues locally, by committee members at the state level, and nationally at AMATYC. MATYCONN provides us all with yet another opportunity to learn from each other and to exchange experiences and ideas that will leave us energized and inspired. I look forward to greeting you there!

Rachael Schettenhelm

Whatever life throws at us, our individual responses will be all the stronger for working together and sharing the load." Queen Elizabeth II

In Memoriam

Miguel Angel García Negrón

Professor Emeritus of Mathematics
Gateway Community College
December 7, 1945 – June 20, 2014



Miguel García, beloved friend to MATYCONN and its members, passed away on June 20, 2014 in New Haven CT. Miguel was a founding faculty member at Greater New Haven State Technical College, which became Gateway Community College. At 6'4" few matched his height and even fewer his stature as a mathematician, gentleman, and friend.

MATYCONN had a special place in Miguel's heart and he served in many executive positions, including President. Other state committees including the Math Issues Committee and the Math Basic Skills Committee of Connecticut were also great sources of professional growth and camaraderie for Miguel. These organizations were of utmost importance to Miguel and he often remarked how he felt refreshed and invigorated after a meeting, as much for the fellowship as for the business at hand.

As a consummate professional, Miguel was an advocate for his students, a cheerleader for his colleagues, a tactful politician with superiors, and truly a friend to all. He brought out the best in those around him and encouraged colleagues with unwavering support. Miguel's love of mathematics was evident in the glee with which he discussed it with associates and presented it to appreciative students. He had a brilliant mind and humbly shared his gifts with those who were privileged to be in his domain.

2014-2015 Officers and Executive Committee

Rachael Schettenhelm, President

Gateway Community College
(203) 285-2191
RSchettenhelm@gwcc.commnet.edu

Janet Zupkus, Vice President

Naugatuck Valley Community College
(203) 596-8704
JZupkus@nvcc.commnet.edu

Ruth Urbina-Lilback, Secretary

Naugatuck Valley Community College
(203) 575-8129
RUrbina-lilback@nvcc.commnet.edu

Katie Lozo, Treasurer

Naugatuck Valley Community College
(203) 596-2152
KLozo@nvcc.commnet.edu

Jana Sime, Membership Chair

Manchester Community College
(860) 512-2732
JSime@mcc.commnet.edu

Michelle Breaker, Newsletter Editor

Gateway Community College
(203) 285-2119
MBreaker@gatewayct.edu

Amanda Sweeney, Newsletter Editor

Gateway Community College
(203) 285-2551
ASweeney@gatewayct.edu

Steve Krevisky

Math Contest Coordinator
Middlesex Community College
(860) 343-5792
SKrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu

Nick Stugard

Math Contest Coordinator
Tunxis Community College
(860) 255-3620
NStugard@txcc.commnet.edu

Larisa Alikhanova, Scholarship Chair

Three Rivers Community College
(860) 885-2375
LAlikhanova@trcc.commnet.edu

Teresa Foley

Immediate Past President
Asnuntuck Community College
(860) 253-3137
TFoley@acc.commnet.edu

Kegan Samuel, Webmaster

Naugatuck Valley Community College
(203) 575-8232
KSamuel@nvcc.commnet.edu

2014-2015 Campus Contacts

Asnuntuck

Teresa Foley (860) 253-3137
TFoley@acc.commnet.edu

Capital

Andre Freeman (860) 906-5177
AFreeman@ccc.commnet.edu

Gateway

Rachael Schettenhelm (203) 285-2191
RSchettenhelm@gwcc.commnet.edu

Housatonic

Mark Leach (203) 332-5230
MLeach@hcc.commnet.edu

Manchester

Jana Sime (860) 512-2732
JSime@mcc.commnet.edu

Middlesex

Pamela Frost (860) 343-5793
PFrost@mxcc.commnet.edu

Naugatuck Valley

Harry Burt (203) 596-2147
HBurt@nvcc.commnet.edu

Northwestern

Karen Collin (860) 738-6336
KCollin@nwcc.commnet.edu

Norwalk

Nancy Fleming (203) 857-3302
NFleming1@norwalk.edu

Quinebaug Valley

John Lepore (860) 432-1824
JLepore@qvcc.commnet.edu

Three Rivers

Larisa Alikhanova (860) 885-2375
LAlikhanova@trcc.commnet.edu

Tunxis

Susan Ricciuti (860) 255-3707
SRicciuti@txcc.commnet.edu

New Faculty and Staff

Middlesex Community College

Middlesex searched for two full time tenure track math faculty positions last spring and came up empty. Since then, we have reorganized from five divisions to two schools with full time twelve month Division Directors. Our Math Division Chair and esteemed colleague, Dr. Mary Rayappan was selected to lead our new School of Allied Health, Business, and STEM. A brief bio for Mary is included below.

This fall we will begin our search for now three full time tenure track

math faculty positions. These positions will be at the Instructor or Assistant Professor level based on credentials and experience. Selected candidates may start at Middlesex in either the Spring 2015 or Fall 2015 semester.

The good news is that we have fabulous one-year temporary faculty to help out the three math faculty that remain: Steve Krevisky, Pam Frost, and Justice-Taylor Baker. Our temporary full-time faculty are: Sarah Leone,

Kim Riordan, Maria Stockmal, and Cathy Weselcouch. Their brief bios are included below.

In addition, we chose to use funds designated for work implementing PA 12-40 to hire an Instructional Support Specialist in Mathematics. We searched for this position last spring and had many outstanding candidates. We were fortunate to be able to hire Teresa deSousa Cull for this position. A brief bio for Teresa is included below as well.

Dr. Mary Rayappan has been named Division Director for the School of Allied Health, Business, and STEM, effective July 1, 2014. Mary earned her Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and MBA degree with a concentration in Operations Management from India. In addition to college-level teaching experience in both India and the United States, Mary worked as a project manager for IBM and other IT companies for a dozen years. As the Division Director, she strives to provide the cordial and collaborative leadership to her faculty and staff. She aspires to influence and facilitate the achievement of the goals of MxCC and support the well-being of her faculty and staff.



Although not a new face to MxCC, **Sarah Leone** is joining us for another Interim One-Year Appointment in the math department. Sarah has been teaching at the college in part-time or full-time capacity for the last 10 years. Sarah came to MxCC after teaching high school math for 5 years. Although Sarah recently resigned her full time faculty position to be more available for her 3 boys, she can't stay away! She's back for another year because she truly enjoys being in the classroom working with students.

New Faculty and Staff cont.

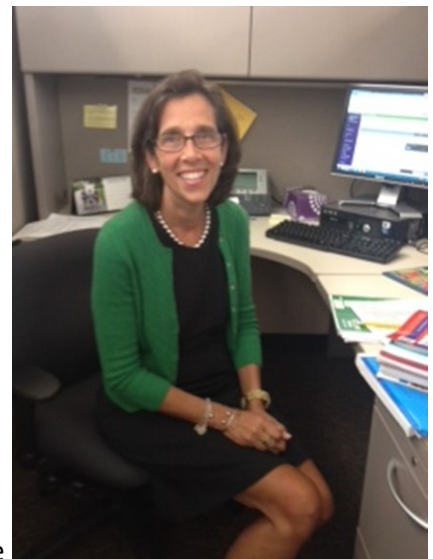
Middlesex Community College



As a Middlesex Community College graduate, **Kimberly Riordan** knows first-hand of the important role a community college plays for its students, and surrounding community. After graduating from MxCC, Kim continued to pursue her love of math and technology by earning a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from CCSU. Immediately after graduation, she was asked to take charge of the Middle School Math Program at a local parochial school. For the next ten years she was the head of the math department, teaching the upper level math classes, researching and implementing an entire new math curriculum, co-chairing the accreditation process, as well as coordinating a school wide math-a-thon that benefited Saint Jude's Children's Hospital. Last year, she excitedly returned to MxCC, and has been instructing the new Fast Track Math Workshops which help students increase their placement scores on the Accuplacer exam, as well as working as an Educational Assistant in the self-paced math classrooms. By cultivating a warm and inviting class atmosphere which fosters mutual respect, and by making math fun and relevant to her students, she is able to help them make positive connections to the math they are learning, and she is especially proud of her accomplishments with her students who suffer from math anxiety.

Catherine Weselcouch earned her BS in mathematics, with a physics minor, at Fairfield University and received an MS in computer science at RPI (Hartford). After graduating from college, she worked for Pratt and Whitney as a programmer analyst in the Engineering Division, for many years.

She is very excited to have this opportunity at **Middlesex** to teach full-time for a year. She has been teaching part-time at MxCC for the past 5 years. Cathy has taught primarily math classes at MxCC, but is now also getting involved with computer science as well. She loves the variety of the classes that she is able to teach. Cathy has also been teaching part-time at ECSU for the past 7 years, although last year she had a 1 year full-time position. She teaches both math and computer science classes there. Teaching at the 2 different schools, exposes her to a variety of students, and helps her to appreciate the individuality of each student and what they each bring to the classroom. She finds her teaching style differs a bit at each school, which she feels keeps her "on her toes at all times".



Cathy also tutors students privately (as needed), and that has given her the opportunity to stay connected with the high schools and to have a better feel to where our students are coming from.

Cathy lives with her husband, 4 sons and dachshund Sammy. In her free time she loves to exercise, cook and garden.

New Faculty and Staff cont.

Middlesex Community College

Maria Stockmal, another new hire at **Middlesex Community College**, graduated from Sacred Heart University with a BA in Mathematics in 1976. She then attended Fairfield University and earned a MS in Instructional Computer Science in 1981 and a MS in Mathematics in 2010. She has extensive experience and knowledge in the field of education and has taught in various capacities for 15 years.



Teresa deSousa Cull is the **Math Instructional Support Specialist** for the Mathematics Department. Teresa has been with **Middlesex Community College** since June 2014. Her main responsibilities include providing assistance to faculty and students in mathematics through: Intensive workshop instruction (“Fast Track Workshops”) for students needing remediation and transitional strategies; supplemental instruction/embedded support assistance for faculty and students within a classroom setting; tutorial assistance to students; and consultations with students to assess proper math placement. Teresa also works closely with the College Learning Center and Meriden Learning Lab to supervise the administration of the Math Additional Assessment, which is a second measure used to assess student math placement in accordance with the PA-1240 legislation.

Before coming to MxCC, Teresa spent eleven years as a math teacher at Nonnewaug High School (Region # 14 – Woodbury, CT), where she also served as department chair for a short time. She has served as a math adjunct faculty member at Central Connecticut State University. At Central Connecticut State University she also served as a Peer Supplemental Instructor during her undergraduate studies. She earned a B.S. in Mathematics for Certified Secondary Education, M.S. in Secondary Mathematics Education, and was part of the first Sixth Year in Mathematics Educational Leadership & Administration Program, all from Central Connecticut State University. Her thesis work and publication was on the “Effect of Formative Assessment on Student Achievement in Mathematics”.

Teresa describes herself as organized, friendly, and dedicated. In the classroom Teresa brings the learning of mathematics alive through the use of technology, class discourse, discovery learning, and peer groups. She has found these techniques to be effective with all learners, no matter the math level or institution. Teresa’s highlighted passions beyond the classroom are: assessment creation, teacher mentoring/supervising, course collaboration, technology, website design, curriculum development, leadership involvement/roles, and advocating effective teaching practices.

New Faculty and Staff cont.

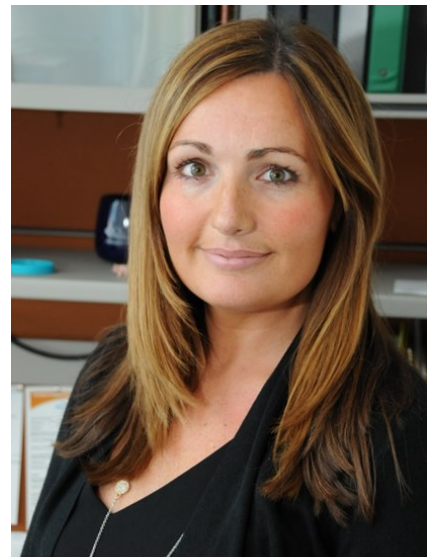
Three Rivers Community College



Beth Godwin is a new hire in the Mathematics Department at **Three Rivers Community College**. She has been teaching mathematics for the last twelve years to students from middle school through college level. She has taught courses ranging from pre-Algebra through Calculus and two levels of Statistics. Schools she has taught at include Manchester Community College, Central Connecticut State University, the University of Connecticut and Northwest Catholic High School. Her favorite, by far, is the community college where she says 'there is just something about the courses and the students'. She has a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Statistics from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a Master's degree in Mathematics with a concentration in Statistics from Central Connecticut State University. She has been a member of MATYCONN off and on during her time at Manchester and hopes to become more involved now that she's in a full time position.

Gateway Community College

Bridget Mullally has been working at **Gateway Community College** since the fall of 2013. Bridget has a master's degree in counseling and first started working in the Student Development office at Gateway. Bridget's work centers on creating and supporting policy to promote student development in college. During her time at the college, she started the Achievement Coaching program, advised all incoming new students and worked on developing new retention strategies for at risk students. Most recently, she was hired full-time as the **Instructional Support Specialist** in the College Advancement Studies Department at Gateway. Her main role has been working on the new PA-1240 developmental initiatives for the remedial math and English department. Within these initiatives, Bridget has been in charge of overseeing and implementing transitional strategies, including math and English boot camps, as well as working as a liaison in Gateway's high school partnership program with the New Haven Public Schools.



Naugatuck Valley Community College

Hien T. Nguyen is a new mathematics faculty member at Naugatuck Valley Community College. She grew up in Vietnam and attended Tunxis Community College majoring in accounting. While there, her marketing professor encouraged her to become an educator. She took the advice and earned her Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Central Connecticut State University. She has been a high school math teacher for the past 10 years and in the past year was voted the most inspiring teacher and the most likely to be a super hero by her high school seniors. She is married and has three children. She enjoys walking, gardening and Karaoke singing.

24th Annual Math Contest

The 24th Annual Math Contest took place in April 2014. Nine campuses reported scores and the top scorers were:

First Place: Joongwan Kim (Gateway CC) and Cody Johnson (Norwalk CC) - 40/40 points

Tied for Third Place: David Diaz (Gateway CC) and Matthew Crossman (Tunxis CC) - 37/40 points

Honorable Mention: Northwestern and Norwalk reported scores of 36/40 points.

24th Annual Connecticut Community Colleges Statewide Math Contest April 2014

Section 1: Each question is worth 1 point.

1. Angelo wants to find the coefficient of the linear term, bx , of the quadratic equation: $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ that is satisfied by the ordered pairs: (2, 11) and (-2, -5). What is the coefficient he is looking for?

Answer: 4

2. A cork and a bottle together cost \$1.10. The bottle costs \$1.00 more than the cork. What is the cost of the cork?

Answer: \$0.05 or 5 cents

3. We know that 4 *tablespoons* equal $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cup. How many *tablespoons* will equal $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cup?

Answer: $\frac{32}{3} = 10 \frac{2}{3}$ tbsp.

4. Find the next number in the pattern: 1, 2, 9, 64, 625

Answer: 7776

5. A piano has 88 keys each being white or black. If 2 white keys were added, then 60% of the keys would be white. How many black keys are there?

Answer: 36

6. CC Sabathia won 11 less than twice as many games as Jon Lester. Lester won 6 fewer games than CC. How many games did CC win?

Answer: 23

Section 2: Each question is worth 2 points.

7. Lauren noticed that if she subtracted 17 times her age 17 years ago from her age 17 years from now, the result would be her current age. How old is Lauren now?

Answer: 18

8. The mean (average) on a college math exam was 71. The teacher realized that she made a mistake in grading one question, so she added one point to each student's grade. The sum of all the grades became 936. How many students were in the class?

Answer: 13

9. $G(x) = \sqrt{\frac{4+x}{4-x}}$ $f(G(x)) = 10x$ Calculate $f(3)$

Answer: 32

10. Two years ago, Dana was one-fourth as old as her uncle. Two years from now, she will be one-third as old as her uncle. How old was Dana's uncle when she was born?

Answer: 24

11. At a county fair, Fary tried a game of target shooting. She received 10 cents for each hit, but had to pay 5 cents for every miss. If 30 shots cost her 15 cents, how many hits did she score?

Answer: 9

12. A line is given by $y = 2x + 6$. A second line is perpendicular, but has the same y -intercept. Find the positive distance between the x -intercepts of the two lines.

Answer: 15

13. The sum of a positive real number and six times its reciprocal is equal to its cube. What is the square of the number?

Answer: 3

14. The base of a parallelogram is increased by 20% while the height of the parallelogram is decreased by 20%. By what percentage is the area of the parallelogram increased or decreased?

Answer: Decreased by 4%

Section 3: Each question is worth 3 points.

15. What is the smallest integer greater than one that is both a perfect cube and a perfect fourth power?

Answer: 4096

16. p , q , and r are all positive numbers, and they all satisfy the following equations: .

$$p - \frac{1}{q} = 3, \quad q - \frac{1}{r} = 4, \quad \text{and} \quad r - \frac{1}{p} = 5 \quad \text{Compute the value of:} \quad pqr - \frac{1}{pqr}$$

Answer: 72

17. There are four treasure chests in front of you, each with its own sign as follows:

Wooden Chest: *The treasure is in here*

Stone Chest: *The treasure is NOT in here*

Iron Chest: *The treasure is NOT in the Wooden Chest*

Gold Chest: *The treasure is in the Iron Chest*

Only one sign is true, and only one chest contains the treasure (not necessarily the same chest); the other chests are booby trapped. Which chest should you safely open?

Answer: Stone Chest

18. Anh, Ana, and Ann have an average age of A.

Anh, Ana, Ann, and Ann's twin Amy have an average age of B.

If Ann is 12 years older than Ahn, and Ahn and Ana have the same age, then find the value of B - A.

Answer: 2

19. A group of friends decide to meet for pizza, and one person calls ahead and orders. However, 3 of the friends do not show up at the pizza parlor. The friends who do show up must each thrown in \$3 more than they originally planned, to cover the \$70 bill. How many friends ate pizza?

Answer: 7

20. Find three consecutive positive integers, such that the cube of the smallest, minus the square of the largest, is 5 more than 3 times the square of the middle integer.

Answer: 6, 7, 8

Steve Krevinsky's African Odyssey—Summer 2014



In summer 2014, I embarked on a journey to Africa. The main purpose was to go to a conference in Mozambique, and also to give workshops for teachers in Nigeria. I did accomplish these goals, although there were obstacles that I had to overcome. My first stop was South Africa, where I visited Soweto, the famous township near Johannesburg, site of the famous uprising against apartheid in 1976. I also visited the Apartheid museum, and made sure to tell people there that many of us supported their struggles.

Next was northern Botswana, where I stayed at a nice lodge on the Chobe River. Across the river was Namibia. I got to see plenty of wildlife there, both from a boat on the river, and also via a game drive. There were elephants, giraffes, cape buffalo, kuduz and others. It was quite the experience.

I then moved on to Victoria Falls, in Zimbabwe, where I was looking to see the falls there. I did get to go on an elephant ride, which I enjoyed, I then got on a tram, headed for the falls. However, this venture was derailed by a train accident, which hospitalized me for several days. Yet, I did continue the trip, getting to Mozambique, where I co-presented, along with Tim Craine, on the subject of Egyptian fractions, at an international conference on Ethno-mathematics. That was a good experience, along with some sightseeing, and staying in an interesting guesthouse there.



Nigeria was my next stop. One of my colleagues, who teaches Early Childhood Education, worked with me to plan for this, along with her husband, who teaches at SCSU. I enjoyed meeting teachers and children at a few local schools, along with also meeting the Vice Chancellor of the university, who co-sponsored our workshops. People there were very nice to me, and I enjoyed doing the workshops for area math teachers, over 2 days. It was a good experience, and we have discussed doing this again in the future.



Finally, I had a few days to chill in Frankfurt, Germany, to rest and sightsee, and that was time well spent, before I finally came home. After 5 days, there, I went off to present at my annual baseball convention in Houston, and then was home for good!

Great Ideas Forum

We'd like to introduce a new feature column in the MATYCONN Newsletter—the Great Ideas Forum! In the future we'll be taking submissions from any interested MATYCONN members. For this month, we're featuring a Great Idea from Gateway's CAS Department!

Create a Resource Organization in Blackboard.

As a method of sharing instructional materials with part-time instructors, Michelle Breaker worked with the Gateway Community College Blackboard coordinator to create an Organization in the Blackboard course management system to house worksheets, syllabi, and sample tests to be downloaded by instructors. Instructors were added to the Bb Organization as users and full-time faculty were added to the Organization as administrators. As a Bb Organization, the content will not need to be rolled over each semester. The Bb content is organized by class and has sub-folders for each type of material. All full-time faculty are able to add and edit material for the classes which they manage. Adjunct faculty are also encouraged to submit materials to be shared. For more information contact Michelle Breaker (mbreaker@gatewayCT.edu)

The screenshot shows the Blackboard interface for a resource organization. At the top, the Connecticut Community Colleges logo is visible on the left, and "My Institution" is on the right. Below the logo, there are navigation icons for home, content, and a search icon. The main header area includes "Content" and "Go To Student View" buttons. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with options like "Announcements", "Content", "Information", "Discussion", "Messages", and "Help". Below this is the "ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT" section, which includes "Control Panel", "Content Collection", "Organization Tools", "Evaluation", "Grade Center", "Users and Groups", "Customization", "Packages and Utilities", and "Help". The main content area is titled "Content" and has tabs for "Build Content", "Assessments", "Tools", and "Partner Content". Below these tabs, there is a "Discover Content" button and a list of resource folders:

- [Common Instructor Resources](#)
- [Rockswold: Group Activities and Worksheets](#)
- [Rockswold: Chapter and Final Exam Reviews](#)
- [Math 085 - Instructor Resources](#)
- [Math 095 - Instructor Resources](#)
- [Math 095ABC - Instructor Resources](#)
- [Math 095 137 Linked - Instructor Resources](#)

Upcoming Conferences

2015 Joint Mathematics Meetings: 121st Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), 98th Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, TX January 10-13, 2015. <http://jointmathematicsmeetings.org/jmm>

Nineteenth Annual AMTE (Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators) Conference, Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando, FL, February 12-15, 2015. <http://www.amte.net/>

2013 T³ International Conference (Teachers Teaching with Technology International Conference), Fort Worth Convention Center – Omni Fort Worth, Fort Worth, TX, March 13-15, 2015 <http://education.ti.com/en/us/pd/international/about#2014>

27th Annual International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM), The Venetian Hotel, Las Vegas, NV, March 12-15, 2015, <http://www.ictcm.org>

AMS (American Mathematical Society) 2015 Spring Eastern Sectional Meeting, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, March 7-8, 2015 http://e-math.ams.org/meetings/sectional/2225_program.html

NCTM 2015 Annual Meeting and Exposition, Boston Convention and Exposition Center, Boston, MA, Denver, Colorado, April 13-15, 2015, <http://www.nctm.org/researchconf/>

40th AMATYC Annual Conference, Mathematics : Music to My Ears, Nashville, TN, November 13-16, 2014
<http://www.amatyc.org/?page=2014ConfHome>

39th Annual NADE (National Association of Developmental Education) Conference, TD Convention Center, Greenville, SC, February 25-28, 2015
<http://www.nade2015.net/>



Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges of Connecticut

On the web:

matyconn.matyc.org/

Newsletter Prepared by:

Michelle Breaker
Assistant Professor of Mathematics
Gateway Community College

