

ArizMATYC NEWS

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2011

President's Message

Thank you for electing me to serve ArizMATYC as President for the next two years. I would also like to express my gratitude to outgoing President, Ken Hurley, for his dedication and leadership. I hope I can follow in his footsteps.

In keeping with ArizMATYC's commitment to effective and innovative mathematics instruction, this newsletter will give you a quick update of activities throughout the state as well as reports from our delegates of the November AMATYC meeting in Boston.

It goes without saying that we will continue to need comments, suggestions and support from our members to help move us in the right direction. Colleges throughout Arizona are meeting numerous challenges, from advanced technological integration into the classroom to shifts in the developmental math paradigm; and we are meeting these challenges in the face of increased enrollment coupled with, in most cases, a static or decreasing quantity of full-time faculty. Please consider sharing what your college is doing by submitting an article to this newsletter or presenting at the next conference so that we may all benefit from your experience.

Speaking of the next conference, I encourage each of you to mark your calendar for the Spring 2011 ArizMATYC Conference to be held on March 4th in Yuma. I look forward to seeing you there!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ana Jiménez', written in a cursive style.

Ana Jiménez
ArizMATYC President

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2010

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We need your news for the newsletter! Mail articles to Sue Jensen at Pima CC, East Campus
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Or e-mail to

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YOU Can Help to Strengthen ArizMATYC

Are all of your colleagues ArizMATYC members? If not, encourage them to join now. Ask them to send their name, college, contact information, and \$10 to

Anne Dudley, ArizMATYC Treasurer
Glendale Community College
6000 West Olive Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85302

Questions about ArizMATYC membership? Call Anne at 623-845-3389

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend:
AMATYC's 37th Annual National Conference
November 10 — 13, 2011



ArizMATYC Campus Reports — October 8, 2010

ASU: Is focusing a lot of effort on the math for elementary and math for secondary teachers sequences. There is a concern about the need to improve algebra skills in order for teachers to be able to pass math competency exams. ASU may add at least two more lower division courses next year.

Arizona Western: Has a new building which is completely solar. There are six companies' solar arrays on campus and the whole campus is now solar powered. Eventually the college will sell electricity to electric utilities. AWC is looking at their developmental math sequence and may implement a reading requirement for math classes.

Central Arizona: Has been adding campuses, with another expected for next year. The new academic Vice President is also working as a math adjunct. Over the past three years enrollment in math is up 95%.

Chandler-Gilbert: Growth has been increasing 11-15% yearly and has resulted in the creation of two new math faculty positions. CGCC is now using Math in Action in the lab.

Cochise: The college is undergoing reorganization and downsizing. They have two new buildings but one of them cannot be occupied because the carpet appears to be emitting some kind of chemical and will need to be replaced. The Gates Foundation awarded a grant to try a program developed at Jackson State in which math classes contain 40 students but in addition to the instructor there is a designated tutor who attends the class regularly and works with the students. A new room with forty computers has been set aside for math. Two faculty members are leaving.

Coconino: Have one new temp and one new full time faculty. The math department has two new classrooms but gave up two old classrooms to be converted into a lab. The college is sponsoring a Festival of Science and is preparing for a visit from the Higher Learning Commission. They have received a grant to build a telescope on campus.

Dine: After a secretary was put in charge of the math department there was a concern that the pass rate was too low. The Vice President who made that decision has since been fired.

Estrella Mountain: Two new faculty positions. Math enrollment is getting a boost from the Emerging Scholars Program sponsored by the National Science Foundation; this program helps pay tuition for students in math, science, and engineering.

Glendale: Hired one new faculty member this fall. Is receiving similar support from the National Science Foundation, through a program which includes extra courses for students majoring in math, science, and engineering. Glendale also has worked to beef up a Math Discovery Center that offers drop-in tutoring and is staffed with math tutors and sometimes by faculty members.

Mesa: Enrollment is up but recently growth has been slowing down. Mesa has started a Math Foundation Center where students can get help. In the second year of using ALEKS as a placement tool. Implementing a policy that requires retesting if placement into a transfer class gets too old.

continued

Campus Reports, continued

Mohave: Is now a learning center-centered college. Developmental math, after having been broken off earlier, is now back in the math department. Working on placement and trying to fix problems that have developed in the past (they are using COMPASS.) There is now a Faculty Senate, and departments have been re-named 'curriculum clusters.'

NAU: The math department is getting money from the university to reconfigure its online delivery in order to help people who don't finish on time. NAU is now using the 'Pathways' software that was developed at ASU. Growth is way up and most classes are twice as large as a result. There is a new Calculus textbook. NAU will be hiring a Ph.D. statistician and four lecturers.

Phoenix College: Planning to accommodate an expected 3000-4000 students with 16-20 full time faculty. The college will attempt to resume its engineering program. Right now the college has about 6 part time faculty ready to move to full time.

Pima: Will be posting for eight mathematics positions to start in fall 2011. Completed a self-study last year and is looking for improvement in online classes. The college is also considering a change in its current placement instruments because, while there is a federal requirement to provide placement, the present program has not been effective in placing students correctly.

Scottsdale: Is experimenting with scheduling, using an eight week/eight week semester schedule to enable people to get through more quickly. SCC now has six video classrooms.

South Mountain: Is collaborating with ASU. Math enrollment has increased from 30 sections of basic algebra a year ago to 58 sections. There is some thought of breaking basic algebra into two courses, beginning and intermediate.

UA: Is piloting a new course, titled "Preparation for College Mathematics." The university is also looking at a change in how it will accept algebra transfer credit. May teach more 200 level math courses.

Yavapai: Has one new hire (actually an former faculty member who had left to teach at the university level but returned to YCC.) Is using MyMathLab software. Developing online courses and will have full time faculty pioneer them and then allow adjuncts to teach them later on.

Fall 2010 ArizMATYC Conference is a Hit

By Kathryn Kozak, Coconino CC

I hope you made it to the Fall 2010 ArizMATYC conference at Pima Community College. If you were one of the 100 attendees, you were able to participate in all the great sessions. To highlight a few, there was a session on learning needs in developmental mathematics, refreshing mixture problems in College Algebra and Finite Mathematics, and Alternate Assessments in Mathematics. There was even a round table discussion on prerequisites for MAT 142. You may have also been there to attend the Math ATF meeting and ArizMATYC business meeting. Both were also very good, and ArizMATYC agreed to donate \$400 to Project ACCESS and will look at ways to make a sustainable donation to ACCESS in the future.

During a great lunch, there were wonderful door prizes given out and time to talk to colleagues. After lunch was the keynote speaker. The keynote speaker was very inspiring and entertaining. Hopefully you didn't miss him.

If you didn't want to attend a session, there was a technology sandbox where you could go and try out different technologies. There were even demos throughout the day so you could go and play with technologies such as Video Creation, SMART Boards, Clickers, Skype, and many more. Once you were tired of that, though how could you be, there was time to talk with different publishers. There was even a 15-minute chair massage being offered.

To end the day, there was a reception at the Westward Look Resort. All and all, the conference was a great success. If you missed it, don't miss the next one on March 4, 2011, at Arizona Western College.

Spring 2011 ArizMATYC and
Mathematics ATF Meetings

“Building Bridges to the Future”

March 4, 2011

Arizona Western College

Conference web page:

[https://sites.google.com/site/
awcarizmatyccom/](https://sites.google.com/site/awcarizmatyccom/)



ArizMATYC Business Meeting

Pima Community College, Northwest Campus — October 8, 2010

Present: Tom Adamson (Phoenix College); Barbara Armenta (Pima); Eli Blake (Northland Pioneer); Chuy Carreon (Mojave); Anne Dudley (Glendale); David Dudley (Scottsdale); Carol Edwards (Chandler Gilbert); Dave Graser (Yavapai); Sue Jensen (Pima); Ana Jiménez (Pima); Kate Kozak (Coconino); Dan Russow (Arizona Western); Howard Speier (Chandler Gilbert); Ben Van Den Linden (Central Arizona); Laura Watkins (Glendale).

The minutes of the April 9 meeting in February 2009 were approved with minor corrections.

Anne Dudley gave the treasurers report. We have \$9,298.90 in the bank. On paper this represents a decrease of \$1,185.41 from the spring meeting but that is misleading because it includes expenses associated with the fall meeting but not all monies received from the meeting. In fact the spring meeting resulted in a net profit of \$1,142.47 when all income and outgo is tallied.

The treasurer has had to play a game of musical checkbook by transferring \$100 to savings every month and then when needed transferring \$500 back to checking in order to avoid paying charges to Wells-Fargo. There was some discussion of transferring out accounts to a credit union or other institution that does not charge fees, but the most popular approach was to look into whether we can qualify as a non-profit in order to avoid fees and it was agreed that Anne, David, Laura and Carol will look into what would be required to establish ArizMATYC as a non-profit and qualify for fee discounts.

The treasurers report was approved by acclamation.

Delegates are reimbursed \$500 when they show up to delegate assembly, but they still need to supply an article for the newsletter. It was suggested that reimbursement might be delayed until that article is supplied.

It was announced that Arizona Western student Hanh Dung had won the student mathematics competition with a score of 51.5, and that Hari Subedi (Pima) was third and Hai Nguyen (Arizona Western) was eighth.

We talked about a summer institute. We still believe it is an idea worthwhile pursuing but due to the economy no institution was willing to commit to hosting it at this time. We may wait and try again to find a host institution when the present budgetary concerns have become less severe.

We voted to send \$500 to Arizona Western College to spend on promoting the spring meeting (scheduled for March 4, 2011.)

We discussed co-hosting an ATF with physics. Next year may possibly work if we can come together with them. We may also want to move forward on the idea that was pushed by the state ATF reps at the spring

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ArizMATYC Business Meeting Minutes, continued

meeting to do a joint ATF with the high school math teachers, but we may want to wait until the new standards are in place.

There are 80 registrations for the spring conference plus 20 who signed in.

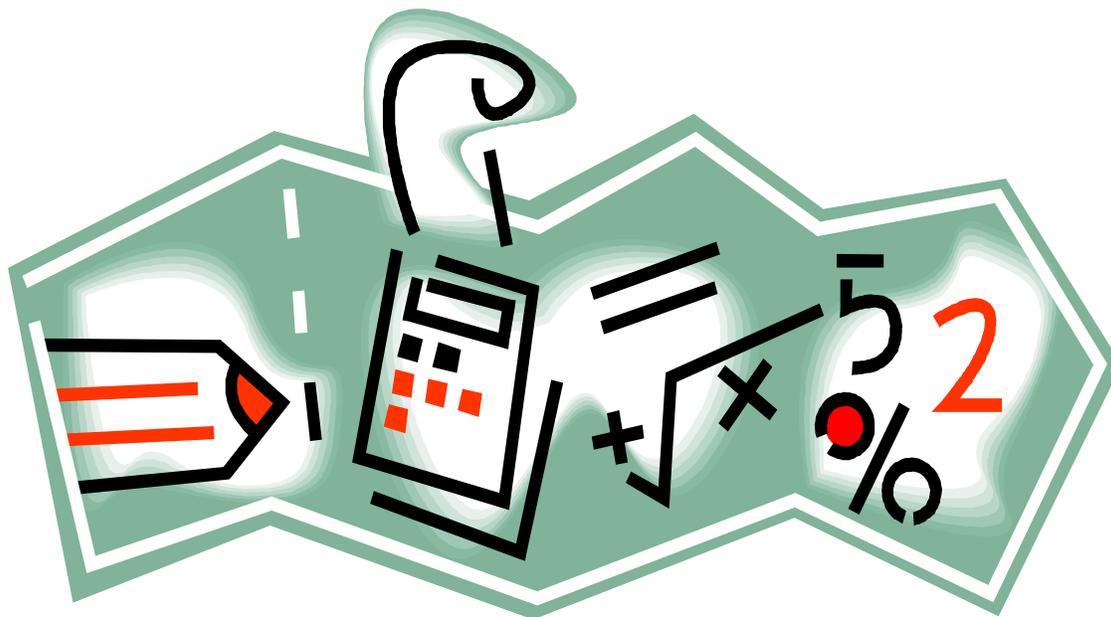
Submissions for the newsletter have to be in to Sue Jensen no later than December 31.

Also on December 31, Ken Hurley's term as President will expire. He will however sign certificates for presenters before that date if they are sent to him with return postage. Ana Jiménez will take over as ArizMATYC President on January 1. We will be putting together a slate (or if we are lucky enough, a contested slate) of officers at our spring meeting. In contrast to past elections, we may hold that election online rather than just among those present.

We talked about the value of Project ACCESS to the organization. It has helped train several of our leaders and active members, and Laura Watkins, an active member of ArizMATYC is the new director. We voted to give \$400 to Project ACCESS.

The meeting was adjourned.

Eli Blake, Secretary



National AMATYC Conference Report

By Ken Hurley, Central Arizona CC

It is always exciting to attend the national AMATYC conference; the theme in Boston was "Bridging Past to Future in Mathematics." Year after year this conference continues to have top-notch break-out sessions, and it is easy to say, "I think I will skip lunch again today and attend..." The sessions offer topics that are up to date and that focus on meaningful and important topics. I attended one session that I really enjoyed, not so much for the topic, but because it was one of many that were presented by "graduates" of an ACCESS cohort. John Bakken and Debra Olsen presented "Using 'Prepare and Reflect' Worksheets to Foster Student Accountability". These worksheets impress students with the need to be prepared for class. The sheets also allowed for a reflection time after the material was presented. Many studies have shown that "reflection" is a key part of learning that many faculty do not help students to develop.

I also enjoyed the Saturday breakfast speaker, Lew Lefton. His keynote address helped to promote the notion that math is fun. I think that many of my math jokes are funnier than his. But I can also recall that many a student has told me to not give up my day job. It is good to sit back and look at our profession through the eyes of humor. He feels that humor helps loosen up a class and makes them better prepared to learn. So we laugh, then get serious to learn and enjoy the total experience.

Next year the conference will be in Austin, Texas. I know it will be good! I will leave you with this "line": With over 1000 math teachers all on the same plane, how could anyone miss the point.

MAT 142 News

The Math ATF in October of 2010 included a roundtable discussion concerning which topics were needed and not needed to succeed in MAT 142. The following is a preliminary list of what those in attendance came up with; this list can be used to continue the discussion at future Math ATF meetings.

Needed:

- Slope
- Linear equations
- Point plotting
- Problem solving
- Exponents
- Calculator skills
- Set language
- Substituting in numbers
- Critical thinking skills
- Reading
- Logs

Not needed:

- Rationals
- Some radicals
- Completing the square
- Imaginary numbers

ArizMATYC Leads the Way

The following is an e-mail sent by ArizMATYC Treasurer Anne Dudley to Rikki Blair (AMATYC past president), Rob Farinelli (AMATYC president), Karen Gaines, and Laura Watkins after the Fall ArizMATYC meeting last October:

Rikki et al,

I just wanted to share with you what happened at the ArizMATYC meeting last Friday. Ana Jiménez (an ACCESS Fellow, the ArizMATYC President-Elect, and that meeting's organizer) asked if we could support the continuation of Project ACCESS with a donation to the AMATYC Foundation. We immediately agreed it was a good idea and a \$100 motion was put forward. It was quickly amended to \$400 with the idea that we had 4 ACCESS fellows in the state (\$100 for each). Three of the four Fellows were in the room and are active in ArizMATYC. We are indeed feeling the trickle down effect of Project ACCESS.

We also discussed ways to make this an ongoing contribution. We discussed the idea of raising the registration fees \$1 or \$2 and having that go to Project ACCESS. Kate Kozak was also in the room, so we are drafting an article for the next AMATYC NEWS. We plan to challenge other affiliates to do the same, or something similar. Perhaps Ken could talk about this at the Affiliate Presidents' luncheon in Boston.

The check is in the (snail) mail,
Anne

