

NMMATYC News

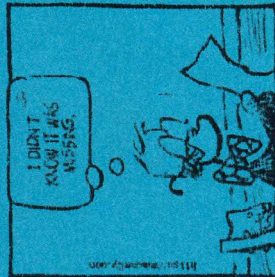
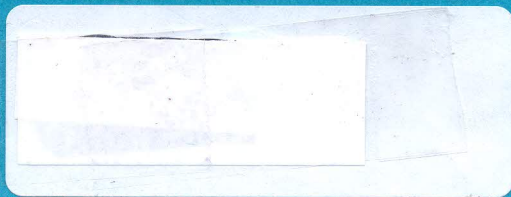
November 30, 2007

Issue 1

Volume 19



NMMATYC Newsletter Editor



Find the square root of 225.



Math test



<http://www.charlottcmathutor.com/htmlfile/cartoons.html>

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NMMATYC News

Volume 16

Issue 2



President's Message

Gordon DeSpain

As I sit and write this message it is a beautiful fall day the weekend before Thanksgiving. I hope that you all are enjoying the amazing weather that we have been having, warm during the day and chilly at night. This is just the kind of weather which more than anything else reminds me of why I love to live in New Mexico. Well, the semester is almost over and by the time you read this the holiday season will be upon us. I hope that you all have had a great semester and will have a festive holiday season.

It was wonderful to see so many of our members at this year's conference. I really enjoyed being able to see and spend time with everyone that attended. We should all send our thanks to our Conference Chair Mary Robinson and everyone else at UNM Valencia that helped her put on such a wonderful conference. I would also like to thank Dr. Nancy Hagegans for being our keynote speaker and for giving the post conference workshop.

The 2008 NMMATYC Annual Conference is going to be held at San Juan College in Farmington. We are very excited about having the conference in Farmington again after such a long time. I encourage everyone to put it on their calendars and to start planning to attend. Make sure that you check the NMMATYC website (www.nmmatyc.org) to get updated information and the forms that you need to sign up to be one of our Presenters at the conference. This year our conference chair at San Juan College is Vonda Rabuck (RabuckV@sanjuancollege.edu). I would like to personally thank her for taking on such a daunting job. Please contact her if you have any questions or you would like volunteer to help at the conference.

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President's Message

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GORDON DESPAIN

This year the AMATYC conference was held in Minneapolis, MN. I must say that this year even with all of the problems that changing venues caused, because of hurricane Katrina, it was a superb conference. While there were only a small number of us from New Mexico at the conference, we still had a great time and a great meal at Bart's Pub (a British eatery) for our annual Saturday night get together.

I would also like to thank Ellen Schneider for all of the hard work that she put in to make last summer's AMATYC Southwest Regional Conference in San Antonio a resounding success.

Michelle Jimenez Memorial Scholarship (\$1200) and Vicky Froehlich Memorial Scholarship (\$700): Please encourage your students to apply for both of our memorial scholarships. These scholarships provide wonderful opportunities for our students to receive financial assistance to help them defray the costs of their college education. Also, make sure to get the word out to your colleagues about both of these scholarships. Print out the applications and put them in all of the mailboxes in your department or (even better) hand deliver them and educate all of your colleagues about both of our scholarships and while you're at it take the time to talk to them about joining NMMATYC. Deadline: April 4th, 2008.

2008 Faculty Professional Development Award (up to \$300): While you are encouraging your students to apply for our memorial scholarships please don't forget to apply for our Faculty Professional Development Award. This is a wonderful award that will go a long way to help you cover the expenses of attending a conference, workshop or other professional development activity in 2008. Deadline: April 4th, 2008.

David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award (200 and one year NMMATYC Membership): Finally, make sure to not pass up the opportunity to nominate one of the most outstanding teachers at your school for the David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award (don't forget that you should feel free to nominate yourself).



President's Message

Continued...

GORDON DESPAIN

This award is only given every other year and the winner will be given the opportunity to be the NMMATYC nominee for the National AMATYC Teaching Excellence Award (note that there will be some extra documentation that needs to be completed by the winner to file for the national award). Deadline: April 4th, 2008.

Don't forget that you can easily obtain information about NMMATYC, our upcoming conference, and for all of our awards at www.nmmatyc.org.

Finally, it's not too early to start thinking about submitting an article for next spring's newsletter. Also, submit to us information or announcements that you think would be of interest to our members.

If you have any questions or comments about NMMATYC or any of the items included in this newsletter please feel free to contact me, Gordon DeSpain, at despain@sanjuancollege.edu.

Have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing all of you up here in Farmington in May!!!

New Mexico Mathematics Articulation

by Seth Abrahamson

Co-Chair of the NM Mathematics Articulation Task Force and Head of the NM Mathematics Discipline Group

In the early 1990s the Commission on Higher Education created the New Mexico Mathematics Articulation Task Force (MATF). The purpose of the MATF was (and still is) to create and update a matrix showing course equivalencies (including archived courses) for every mathematics course offered at the state's two-year colleges. The main point of creating a matrix like this is to allow students to transfer their math courses easily from one school to another. But easy transferability can happen only if the advisors and counselors at each of our schools not only know that the matrix exists but also trust that the information is accurate.

In order to ensure accurate information, every Community College, College, and University (including branch campuses) in New Mexico is allowed a representative on the MATF. Every year these representatives meet in conjunction with the annual NMMATYC conference. School representatives make decisions for their own schools on whether another school's course should be deemed equivalent to their own. Since this dialogue and process has been happening for the last 15 years or so, a truly impressive matrix now exists.

In the last two years, one of the New Mexico Higher Education Department's goals has been to help students transfer general education credits from one school to another. The NM General Education Common Core is 35 credit hours worth of classes split into five areas. The classes under the Mathematics Area (Area II) are College Algebra, Calculus, and Other College-Level Mathematics. The Mathematics Discipline Group (MDG) was created and charged by the NM HED with three tasks; 1) writing competencies and course evaluation forms for these classes, 2) evaluating the submitted evaluation forms to determine if the particular class can be counted as general education credit and 3) informing the HED of what classes qualified for placement on their Matrix. Although the process is more rigorous for inclusion of courses on the HED matrix, if done correctly, it will never contradict the larger MATF matrix.

Several problems arose with the creation of a second Mathematics articulation group but almost all of these issues have been resolved. The first problem was just creating a line of communication and understanding between the two groups. This is in place now but will need ongoing attention. A bigger and more specific problem was that the title "Other College Level Math" was interpreted by math instructors to mean a liberal arts or conceptual mathematics course but others

New Mexico is part of the southwest region of AMATYC and we have been very ably served by our own Mary Robinson from UNM-Valencia as Southwest regional Vice-President for the past 6 years. Vice-Presidents are limited to serving three successive terms, so Mary is no longer eligible but we are all grateful for her service in representing New Mexico and the Southwest Region of AMATYC on our behalf. This past spring there was an election of new officers for AMATYC and Jean Woody of Tulsa Community College in Oklahoma was elected by to serve as the new Southwest Region Vice-President.

Project ACCESS is a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college mathematics faculty. The original ACCESS program was sponsored through a grant from Exxon-Mobil. AMATYC was sufficiently impressed from the results of the program that the AMATYC board decided to continue the program with society funds after the three-year grant expired (additional funding is being sought from outside sources). Project ACCESS fellows attend two consecutive AMATYC national meetings where they participate in specially developed pre-conference workshops as well as regular conference activities. In the following year, fellows are encouraged to attend an AMATYC Affiliate meeting, an MAA Section meeting or an NCTM Regional meeting near their home institution. To date, New Mexico has not had a project ACCESS fellow! If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a fellow, please apply or encourage them to apply. Details for becoming part of the fifth cohort of project ACCESS fellows are at <http://www.access.amatyc.org/home.htm>

This past spring the AMATYC membership approved indexing the membership dues annually with the CPI. Currently, the dues for a one-year membership are \$75 (check with your administration to see if they support professional membership fees as a budget item). There are discounts for multi-year memberships, as well as for students, adjuncts and retired categories. Full members receive the AMATYC Review and AMATYC also publishes several other journals of interest to math educators.

Check it all out at <http://www.amatyc.org/index.html>

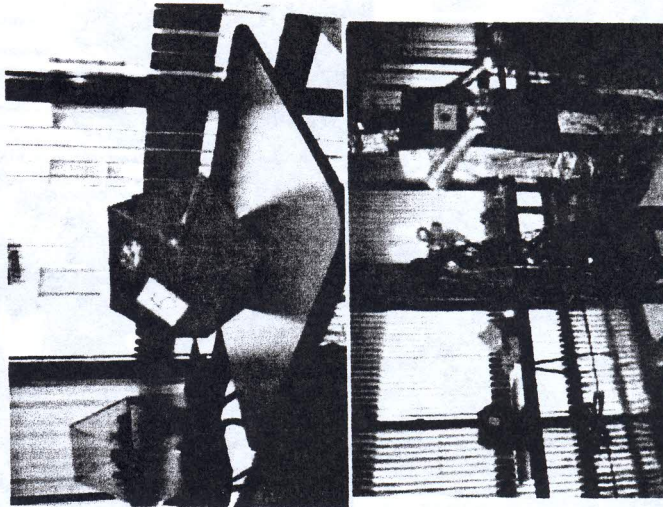


POLYOUT

By
Ivette Chuca

Every semester in my Math 1351 (Fundamental of Mathematics II) class, I give students a project in which they are to construct an object using at least three geometric solids. The students are graded on creativity, decoration, whether their projects have 3 geometric solids in which two have to be polyhedrons, and they get graded on calculating the volume and surface area. Every year the students turn in their projects and I graded them and give it back to them without their projects being displayed for others to see.

This semester I wanted to display our student's work for others in the college to see. I asked another instructor if she wanted to join me in this idea. She agreed and assigned her students the same project. We displayed the students work for two days and had faculty, staff, and students vote. With the help of our division we were able to award prizes to the first, second and third place winners. We had punch and cookies on the last day and many people seemed about the projects. Below are some photos of some of the projects and students. ENJOY!!





Professional Development Funds Available

Each year, NMMATYC provides up to \$300 to cover expenses for one of its members to take part in a professional development activity. The application process and form may be found on the NMMATYC website

<http://www.nmmatyc.org>

For additional information, contact Gordan DeSpain at dspring@seminolecollege.edu. The completed application must be received by April 4, 2008

AMMATYC CONFERENCE DATES

- 2008, Washington DC, Nov. 20 – 23
- 2009, Las Vegas, NV, Nov. 12 – 15
- 2010, Boston, MA, Nov. 11 – 14
- 2011, Austin, TX, Nov. 10 – 13



AMMATYC CONFERENCE
2007

WANTED!

Good, useable mathematics related websites. Send URL along with a brief description to Mary Caffey at marycaffey@clowis.edu for publication in the next newsletter.

A site that I frequently refer students to is the Purplemath site, particularly <http://www.purplemath.com>, which contains mathematical material from arithmetic through college algebra, including word problems. The site also contains helpful homework guidelines for students.

Another site used extensively by my students is <http://www.mathematics-shed.com> where they can print off graph paper in several different formats. I particularly like the page of three graphs, each with a table and room to show their work. The student's work and graphs are together and I don't have to "hunt" for the graph any more!

Honor a Colleague

The David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award is given by NMMATYC to honor one of its members who has made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of mathematics. Consider recognizing and honoring a colleague by nominating him or her for this award. The nomination procedure and form may be downloaded at <http://www.nmmatyc.org/>. Contact Mary Caffey, Nominating Chair, at marycaffey@clowis.edu for further information. The submission deadline is April 4, 2008.