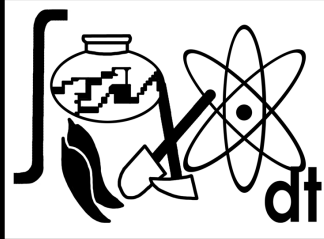


New Mexico
Mathematical
Association



of Two-Year
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NMMATYC

News

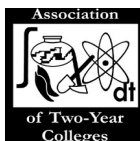
October 14, 2012

Volume 25

Issue 2

2010-2011 NMMATYC Board

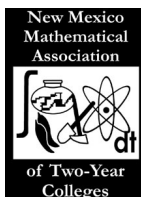
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NMMATYC News

Volume 25

Issue 2



Say Goodbye to the printed newsletter,
and say hello to the electronic one in Spring
See Page 15

Spring Conference April 14 & 15, 2013

President's Message

Philip Kaatz

Dear NMMATYC colleagues,
I would like to extend my thanks to all of you who attended the annual NMMATYC spring conference in Las Cruces last May, 2012. As some of you probably know, we honored several faculty and students at the conference: the Professional Development Award went to Melinda Camarillo from El Paso Community College, the Michelle Jimenez Scholarship went to Olga Saprycheva from El Paso Community College and the Vicki Froehlich scholarship went to Georg Heller from Clovis Community College. Several other students who participated in the AMATYC Student Math League were also recognized for their achievements. Special thanks are due to Suzanne Hill, the conference chair and Ali Ahmad, NMMATYC president, for working very hard to ensure the success of the conference.

We also had elections for new NMMATYC officers via SurveyMonkey last spring. The NMMATYC membership elected Diana Orrantia of El Paso Community College president-elect, Melinda Camarillo of El Paso Community College secretary and Rachel Black of Central New Mexico Community College treasurer. The NMMATYC board is always looking for members to take a more active role in the organization, so if you are at all interested, please contact me or any current board member about positions that may be open on the board.

President's Message Continued...

NMMATYC is currently planning to hold the 2013 spring conference in Socorro at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology on April 13-14, 2013. This will be a joint meeting with the Southwest section of MAA. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend the conference. Also, please try to think of ways that you could contribute to the success of the conference. As always, we hope to make it an enjoyable conference, but the success depends to some extent on the active participation of the membership. Please check the NMMATYC website (<http://www.nm.matyc.org/>) for upcoming details of the conference.

Two other conferences may also be of interest to members. The annual AMATYC conference will be held on Nov 11-14, 2012 in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition, the Southwest section of AMATYC is planning a conference in Flagstaff, Arizona in June of 2013. Both conferences will have a wide variety of interesting topics of interest to mathematics educators. I hope to see some of you there.

I hope all of you have an enjoyable and successful year. If you suggestions of things that NMMATYC could do to help contribute to your professional success, please feel free to contact me or any other board member.

Best regards,
Philip Kaatz

From our Southwestern Region's

VP ----

I hope that your year is off to a great start and that if you are not a member of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year colleges (AMATYC) that you consider becoming one! AMATYC has many exciting activities that you may participate in as an AMATYC member. The Annual AMATYC Conference, a series of webinars, and the AMATYC committees offer many opportunities for you to network with your peers across the United States and Canada and expand your mathematical knowledge. In addition, AMATYC members receive the *AMATYC News* and *MathAMATYC Educator* publications during the year.

If possible, please join me in Jacksonville, FL for the 38th Annual AMATYC Conference to be held November 8-11. The miniprogram and other information about the conference is available online at www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2012Jacksonville/index.html. The theme of this year's conference is *River-of-Knowledge, Ocean-of-Dreams* and is sure to offer many opportunities for professional development and networking. There are exciting new changes this year, including a conference app for your mobile device and a streamlined check in. See the October issue of the *AMATYC News* for more information about these. In addition, there is a Research Pre-session on Wednesday hosted by the Research Committee (RMETYC)

www.amatyc.org/Eventsconferences/2012Jacksonville/RMETYCcfp.pdf, and the Innovative Teaching and Learning Committee is hosting an Ignite event on Friday night, www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2012Jacksonville/igniteevent.pdf. If you are a first time attendee to the AMATYC conference, a reception will be held in your honor on Thursday evening, November 8 from 5 until 6 p.m. Our Southwest regional meeting and luncheon will be held on Friday, November 9 from 11:45 am until 1:15 pm. I hope to see each of you there.

AMATYC has offered a series of free webinars for its members. If you want to see past webinars, you can find them on YouTube by going to www.amatyc.org/publications/webinars/index.html and clicking on the appropriate link. Watch your email for future attractions!



VP's message continues ----

If you would like to be more involved in mathematics education nationwide, AMATYC has 9 committees you can join. They are Developmental Mathematics, Division/Department Issues, Innovative Teaching and Learning, Mathematics for AAS Programs, Statistics, Mathematics Intensive/College Mathematics, Placement/Assessment, Teacher Preparation, and Research in mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges. Although the committees meet annually in person at the AMATYC conference, they do most of their work during the year through emails, websites, and Google groups. Read more about the committees at www.amatyc.org/committees/index.htm. Contact information for each committee chair is listed on the website.

There are many ways to be involved in AMATYC. Currently AMATYC is looking for several individuals to take on exciting positions within the organization. These include the Professional Development Coordinator, the *MathAMATYC Educator* editor, the Traveling Workshops Coordinator, and Grants Coordinator. All of these positions are important to keeping the organization growing. If you would like to be on the AMATYC Board, elections will be held next year. Consider running for an office. The open positions are President-Elect, Secretary, and the eight regional VP's. I can tell you that serving on the Board is a rewarding experience that I have enjoyed. Information about all of these positions can be found in the August 2012 or October 2012 AMATYC *News* (published around October 21st).

On last thing, nominations for the Teaching Excellence (TE) Award are due December 6, 2012. You probably know that incredible instructor that never gets the recognition that they deserve. Please consider nominating them. Information can be found at www.amatyc.org.

If you are already a member of AMATYC, you are well aware of what AMATYC has to offer. If you are not yet a member, I encourage you to visit the website at www.amatyc.org and become a member. I hope to see you in Jacksonville!

Nominations Wanted

Teaching Excellency Award

Do you know someone involved in mathematics that deserves recognition for their exceptional efforts day in and day out? Why not nominate them for this year's Teaching Excellence Award! NMMATYC established the David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award to honor educators who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics education at the two-year college level. Nominations for this award will be taken until March 1st, 2013. Contact information and the short nomination form may be found at <http://nm.matyc.org>. Please consider nominating a deserving colleague!



RADS

Roads to Achieving a Degree in Science

By Chris Platero

“Roads to Achieving a Degree in Science” is a National Science Foundation funded scholarship program. The University of New Mexico-Gallup Campus was awarded approximately \$500,000 in 2010 to support students entering STEM fields. The scope of the award is to increase the number of graduates receiving an AS Degree in Science at the UNM-Gallup Campus. With this degree, students are then prepared to enter a four year institution while majoring in STEM fields.

We are currently working on our third year of the program, the First year being the planning year. Students who are awarded receive a \$4000 scholarship for each semester for a maximum of two years based on their GPA. Beginning in year 2, the goal was to award ten students, then ten new students each year after that. The program will end in the fifth year. During each semester, The RADS scholars get together along with their families for a family night event, where we have dinner just to recognize each scholar.

During the second year, which is the first year to award scholarships, we awarded seven students. The third year, this semester, we have awarded three new students. Hopefully in the spring 2013 semester, RADS can support five more students who are currently applying. These particular students show strong potential in a STEM field of their interest.

I am the Principal Investigator for this NSF grant while Dr. Kamala Sharma is CO-PI. Dr. Sharma and I have done quite a lot to assist these students, which includes advisement, grade checks and evaluations. Dr. Sharma has also done a tremendous job revising the AS Science graduation checklist. The revision is more focused on transitioning these students to four year degrees, whether engineering, math, science or even health related sciences.

Besides providing funding for scholarships, RADS also has a budget for travel. Last year we did not get to travel anywhere, but this year we are supporting RADS scholars to attend the AISES National Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. All expenses paid.

Chris Platero
Assistant Professor/RADS-PI
University of New Mexico-Gallup Campus





AISES

American Indian Science & Engineering Society

By Chris Platero

AISES is a national nonprofit organization that was founded in 1977. The mission of AISES, is to substantially increase the representation of American Indians and Alaskan Natives in engineering, science, and other related technology disciplines. Each year AISES has a National Conference during the fall semester. In the spring, there is a Regional and a Leadership conference as well. The US is divided into nine regions. NM is in region three which includes New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado.

Here at University of New Mexico Gallup Branch, the AISES chapter was revitalized in 2006. During which time, three students and myself, the Faculty Advisor, raised enough money to attend the National Conference in Detroit, Michigan. In 2007 the conference was in Phoenix, Arizona, followed by Anaheim, California in 2008 where we rode the Amtrak. In 2009, we managed to take six students along myself to Portland, Oregon. In 2010, was easy planning simply because the National Conference was in Albuquerque, NM.

Every year the club is chartered by the UNM-Gallup Student Senate beginning with an allocation of \$500. Our recent trip in 2011 was to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where I chaperoned nine students. The price tag on that trip was approximately \$8500. Therefore, fundraising is ongoing at the beginnings of each year. Not very much time if the National Conferences are usually at the beginning of November. Besides food sales on campus or flea markets, students also learned how to write proposals requesting money from local businesses. Writing proposals is just one of the many things learned at these conferences. Therefore by attending these conferences, students learn valuable information such as grant writing, resume writing, professional interviews and poster presentations. And it pays off.

Since the club started at UNM-Gallup, two students were hired as summer interns with Navajo Nation Oil & Gas and U.S. Department of Forestry during the Career Fairs. This year, 2012, I will be taking ten students to the conference, which will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. During this time, one student, Vanessa Frank, will be presenting her poster during the poster session of her research she did over the summer months. This will be the largest bunch of students that will represent UNM-Gallup by attending the conference.

I have been involved as a AISES member for 15 or more years as a student and club officer. I have traveled to many cities attending these conferences and each year it's more exciting. AISES also provides scholarships for student where I was a recipient throughout my years in college to help pay tuition. Also, I have been selected for summer internship on two occasions. Once, for the US Department of Energy in Washington, DC and the other, for CASE Corporation in Chicago, Illinois. Experiencing what AISES has to offer, it is my honor to share and help new students to the organization. To learn more about AISES, visit: aises.org.

Chris Platero
Assistant Professor/AISES Advisor
Division of Arts & Science
University of New Mexico-Gallup Campus

Have you heard of Mu Alpha Theta?

Mu Alpha Theta at EPCC

Mu Alpha Theta is a nationally recognized Mathematics Honor Society for high school and two-year college students. Over two years ago, I started a chapter of Mu Alpha Theta at the Transmountain Campus of El Paso Community College and I have been the sponsor of this club ever since.

Mu Alpha Theta, or the Math Club, is a way to get students involved at their campus while learning about and applying math to all sorts of fun projects and activities. The Math Club has hosted many guest presenters, such as faculty and graduate students from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and New Mexico State University (NMSU), as well as presenters from our own college. A representative from CASIO also came down to show our members how to use the latest calculator – the Class Pad 300. She even gave our members a chance to earn one of these calculators for themselves. We have also participated in some Math Competitions, such as the regional Science Bowl, and a national competition, the Log1 competition.

One of the things that makes our club so special is the fact that we have partnered with the Early College High School students. Although the Early College High School officially has their own Mu Alpha Theta chapter set up at their campus, they join us for all of our events. They are so energetic and fun to work with and they bring so much life to our club!

Last year we put together the first ever Math Massacre! This was a jeopardy style math competition in which our high school members went up against our college age members to be the first ever Math Massacre champions. Although it was a close competition, our college members took the prize! It was an entertaining event and a great way to raise money for our club. Our members are excited about putting together this competition again at the end of this year.

The Math Club is a way to encourage and inspire our members to work with math. It promotes unity amongst the members while also promoting the fun and exciting side of math to others! I look forward to continuing as the sponsor of this club and taking part in new events and activities this year.

Anybody wanting more information on Mu Alpha Theta can visit their website www.mualphatheta.org or can contact me at mramos91@epcc.edu.



Math Club members and I at our end of year dinner in May at Jaxon's restaurant.



Math Club members and I doing an activity outside during one of our meetings this semester.

Have you tried MOOC ???

MOOC Trial

By Gabriel R. Camacho, Philosophy Instructor at El Paso Community College

Like most instructors at a two year college, where our focus is on teaching, I am always searching for opportunities to improve the experience of my students. After several years of trial and error, I finally felt comfortable with my face to face courses. But, as someone who is still relatively new to distance education, I continue to struggle with how to enhance the online experience of my students. With this in mind, I thought that the best way to get a sense of what the student needs to succeed in the virtual environment was to take an online course myself.

Around the time that I came to this conclusion, I heard about the “next big thing” in higher education, massive open online courses, or MOOCs, for short. If you have not heard of MOOCs, it’s probably because they are so new, that even people involved with the MOOC revolution aren’t entirely clear about what they are or what they are meaning to accomplish. Essentially, they are online college courses, some introductory, some more advanced, with an open enrollment so that anyone in the world can participate. The courses are offered free of charge and if the student successfully finishes the course with a passing grade, they usually receive a certificate of completion.

As a philosophy instructor, I have taught Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics online, but I want to eventually offer a course on Logic. In order to get some ideas about how to develop my class, I enrolled in “Introduction to Logic” taught by Stanford University Computer Science professor Michael Genesereth. This course is available on the Coursera site, a startup by Stanford University professors. (edX is another site that offers MOCCs.) In general, the layout of the course is simple and straightforward. One unit is covered per week. Students watch video lectures and can read along with class notes provided. Once the material is covered, there are exercises in which 70 percent must be answered correctly to receive credit. The discussion forums are the main way that students can interact with each other and the instructor. This is a space where study groups are formed (virtual or face to face) and the instructor can answer specific questions.

Overall, my experience thus far has been positive. I find that dedication and discipline are essential. It’s very easy to put off course work and get behind. The work is challenging, but at the appropriate level for an average college student. I have taken a few ideas that I can incorporate into my own online courses, but nothing revolutionary. Mostly, I have seen new ways to organize and present the material.

Should you take a MOOC? I think that they might serve as good refreshers. Suppose you are going to be teaching calculus next Fall for the first time in several semesters. A short 8 week MOOC could catch you up in no time. I think the intellectually curious could always find a course worth taking. Although, in all honesty, a good “teach yourself” book would do the job just as well. If you are new to online teaching, this is definitely a good way to see how a typical course is organized and run.

Something to think about ----

Two Plus Two or Why Indians Flunk

By Beverly Slapin

All right, class, let's see who knows what two plus two is. Yes, Doris?
I have a question. Two plus two what?

Two plus two anything.
I don't understand.

OK, Doris, I'll explain it to you. You have two apples and you get two more. How many do you have?

Where would I get two more?

From a tree.

Why would I pick two apples if I already have two?

Never mind, you have two apples and someone gives you two more.

Why would someone give me two more, if she could give them to someone who's hungry?

Doris, It's just an example.
An example of what?

Let's try again – you have two apples and you find two more. Now ho many do have?

Who lost them?

YOU HAVE TWO PLUS TWO APPLES!!!! HOW MANY DO YOU HAVE ALL TOGETHER????

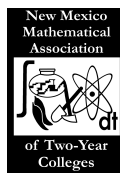
Well, if I ate one, and gave away the other three, I'd have none left, but I could always get some more if I got hungry from that tree you were talking about before.

Doris, this is you last chance – you have two, uh, buffalo, and you get two more. Now how many do you have.

It depends. How many are cows and how many are bulls, and is any of the cows pregnant?

It's hopeless! You Indians have absolutely no grasp of abstractions!
Huh?

(Through Indian Eyes: The Native Experience in Books for Children, Beverly Slapin and Doris Seale, editors.)



Mark this date for our next conference!

The annual meeting of the New Mexico Association of Two-Year Colleges, which will be held jointly with the MAA Southwestern Section, will be happening Saturday-Sunday, 13-14 April 2013 on the New Mexico Tech campus in Socorro.

Plans are still being made, but we already plan to have student sessions, talks on issues like on-line education and dual enrollment, a Chairs' Roundtable and more.

Also, we will be having as an invited speaker Professor Bob Devaney, a well-known expert in Chaos and Fractals and a very engaging speaker!

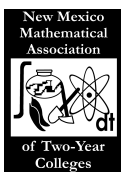
For more information, and further developments check out our webpage at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~wdstone/2013MAA-NMATYCmeeting.htm>

Proposal forms should be posted on the web site – either now or in the very near future.

You can also contact the organizers:

Bill Stone
wdstone@nmt.edu

Annette LaRussa
alarussa@nmt.edu

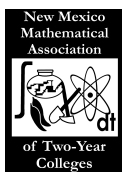


Attention!!!

Starting with the Spring 2013 issue of this newsletter – the newsletter will be sent electronically!

Save the date: April 13 and 14, 2013

Spring conference at New Mexico Tech

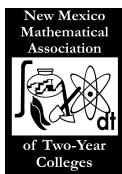


What's happening at EPCC ----

“Result of S-STEM Project with International Boundary and Commission”

The Rio Grande is the life line for cities, agriculture, and wildlife, water quality being a key factor in determining its general environmental state. S-STEM students participated in Rio Grande related projects, including S-STEM scholars (Dr. Fariba Ansari, Ms. Edith Aguirre, and Dr. Naomi Weissman), Using Statistics and a Biology knowledge to analysis the raw data from Rio Grande. Students developed statistical descriptions of nutrients in river water, performed cleanups, or hosted a Rio Grande Science Café. Students will present data on nutrient levels from selected river segments and discuss their experiences with the Adopt-a-River Program. The Result will submit to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for annual report and to be publish

You can contact Fariba Ansari at fansari@epcc.edu for more information.

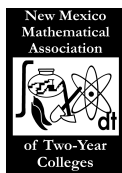


Math Jokes

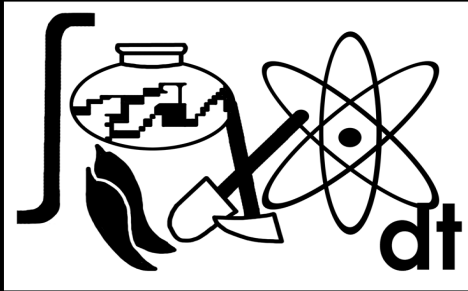
Instructor: Where do you see roman numerals these days?



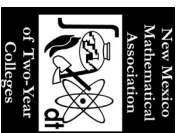
Student: Clothing sizes—M, L, XL.



**New Mexico
Mathematical
Association**



**of Two-Year
Colleges**



Joanne Peoples

NMMATYC Newsletter Editor

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