

NMMATYC News

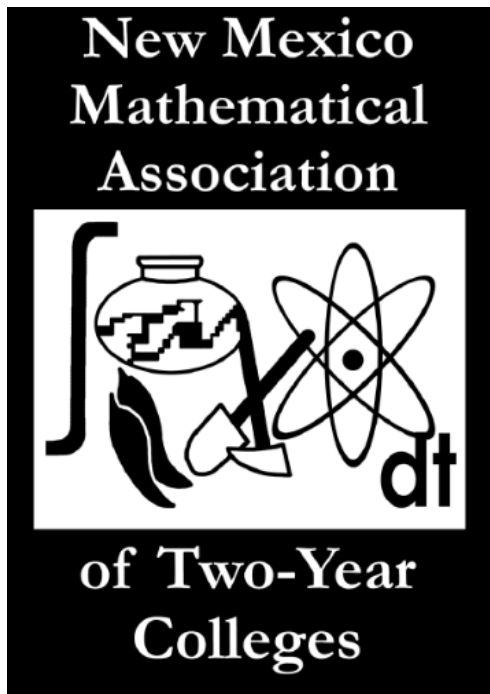
New Mexico Mathematical
Association of Two-Year Colleges

Spring 2014

Make Plans To Attend Our Spring
Conference May 23 & 24 at
Mesalands CC, Tucumcari, NM

Key note speaker:

Ron Larson



2	A Message From The President	Student Scholarships	7
3	A Message From The Vice President	Newsletter Editor and Nominations Wanted	8
4	NMATYC 25 th Annual Meeting	Math, Young People, and the Future	9
5	Conference in Arizona/ A Remembrance	Mathematics Project- A Fun Experiment	10
6	David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award	NMMATYC Board	12

A Message From The President

- Philip Kaatz

Greetings,

Time is flying by into 2014. This year NMMATYC celebrates 25 years as an organization. We will hold our annual conference this year at Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, NM on Friday-Saturday, May 23-24, 2014. Prof. Ron Larson, a well-known textbook author will be our Friday evening banquet key-note speaker. See the conference website at <https://sites.google.com/site/nmmatyc2014/home> for further information about the conference. Early registration for the conference will end April 30, 2014.

Please visit our conference link and consider contributing a presentation for the conference. Every one of us very likely has something to share that would be of interest to the rest of the mathematical community throughout the state. Even though preparing a conference presentation can be a lot of work, sharing your expertise and experiences is a great way for each of us to grow professionally and to be better educators. If you have additional questions or comments about the conference program, you can contact our

conference chair, Forrest Kaatz,
forrestk@mesalands.edu.

NMMATYC will be holding elections this spring for secretary, treasurer and president-elect. If you are interested in serving in these positions or on the board in any other capacity, please contact me or any other current board member. If you have specific questions about the duties of these officers, you can contact the current officers:

President-elect: Diana Orrantia, El Paso Community College,
dianao@epcc.edu
Secretary: Melinda Camarillo, El Paso Community College,
mramos91@epcc.edu
Treasurer: Rachel Black, Central New Mexico Community College,
rblack@cnm.edu

Or, see our website for information about other board members at <http://nm.matyc.org>

As usual, we also plan to honor our top students at the conference through the Michelle Jimenez Scholarship, the Vicki Froehlich Scholarship, and the Student Mathematics League participants. We are still accepting nominations for the student scholarships, so please be sure to send in your nominations and to encourage your students to apply. Information and application forms are available on our website

<http://nm.matyc.org>.
Applications are due Friday, April 4, 2014.

The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) is a wonderful organization that offers us many professional opportunities. Please consider becoming a member of AMATYC and attending AMATYC conferences. AMATYC is continuing to provide a scholarship for one person to cover the AMATYC member's early registration at the fall conference this year in November at Nashville, TN. Come and celebrate 40 years of AMATYC! If you have not had an opportunity to attend an AMATYC conference in the past and you would like to have this scholarship, please let me know.

I hope you all have an enjoyable semester and please plan on coming to the 25th annual NMMATYC conference in Tucumcari. We look forward to welcoming all of you!

Best regards,

Philip Kaatz
NMMATYC President
Mesalands Community College
philipk@mesalands.edu



AMATYC Guidelines and Position Statements

Is your department struggling with the preparation of mathematics faculty? Are you trying to change the way your faculty teach? Are you wondering what the best practices are for testing in online classes? Are you rewriting your A.S. and A.A. degrees and wondering what should the mathematics requirement be? Is your department wanting to redesign your developmental sequence and need some guidance as to the most appropriate preparation for the students? If you need help with any of these, I suggest looking at the guidelines and position papers of the website of the American Mathematical Society of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). The guidelines, position papers, and "Crossroads in Mathematics" are all available under the Publications tab and then position papers.

These guidelines and position papers were developed through a process with input gathering and formal adoption. The process for proposing or updating position statements and guidelines involves a committee developing a position statement or a task force developing guidelines. The statement or guidelines is submitted to the AMATYC Board, who then votes to endorse the spirit of the statement. At this point, input from the AMATYC membership is obtained through forums. Once that takes place, the AMATYC Board votes to endorse the statement, a final forum is held at the AMATYC

annual conference, and then the AMATYC Delegate Assembly votes to approve the statement. The process has always been that the two forums are held at two different AMATYC annual conferences, but the Board just approved a motion to allow the Board to vote to allow a position statement to have its first forum via a webinar. Not all position statements will use this new process, but it does allow AMATYC to react faster to the changing educational landscape. As you can see, all position papers and guidelines go through a thorough process of development and revision.

Currently, the Guideline on the Academic Preparation of Two-Year College Faculty is under review. A task force worked on rewriting it, and the revision was presented at a forum at the AMATYC Annual Conference in Anaheim. There is a new position statement being proposed by the Developmental Mathematics committee on the "Appropriate Use of Intermediate Algebra as a Prerequisite Course." Both will be presented to the Delegate Assembly at the AMATYC Annual Conference in Nashville, TN. You can read the revision of the guidelines and the proposed position statement the Guidelines and Position Statements page under the Publication tab on the amatyc.org website. Please review them and send me any comments you have. I will send your comments to the appropriate committee.

If you feel that AMATYC needs to present a position paper on particular topic, I suggest you contact the chair of the appropriate committee.

A Message From The Vice President

- Kathryn Kozak



AM
fou

Contact Information and then Academic Committees. You do not have to be a member of the committee to suggest a topic, but do consider joining the committee to help on the topic.

AMATYC helps to shape mathematics education at the two-year college level, and it is an important organization in mathematics education, and it has many tools to help you in your teaching. Please consider becoming a member today. If you are a member, please consider renewing today and setting up your account for auto-renew. It is advisable to join or renew before July 1, 2014, since that is the date that the cost of a membership increases. I look forward to you becoming a member of this important organization.

By Kathryn Kozak,

VP of the Southwest Region of AMATYC

www.nm.amaty.org

NMATYC 25th Annual Meeting

The 25th annual meeting of the New Mexico Association of Two-Year Colleges will be held Friday- Saturday, 23-24 May 2014 on the campus of Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, NM.

There will be one or one-half hour contributed presentations, student sessions and a poster session. Many of you will know Ron Larson from the many textbooks he has authored. We have invited him to give the keynote presentation at our banquet on Friday evening of May 23, 2014. He will be talking on a topic of much interest to many of you, "60 Years of Reform in Mathematics Education."

We are currently accepting submissions for presenters and presiders. Presenting will provide you with an excellent opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with mathematics colleagues throughout the state. Presiding is an excellent way to support our presenters and play a key role in making the conference run efficiently.

For more information, including special conference hotel rates and further developments check out our webpage at <https://sites.google.com/site/nmmatyc2014/home/>. Early registration for the conference will end April 30, 2014.

You can also contact the conference organizers:

Forrest Kaatz
575-461-4413 x 103
forrestk@mesalands.edu

Philip Kaatz
575-461-4413 x 128
philipk@mesalands.edu

Conference in Arizona

The ArizMATYC/MAA SW Section spring conference will be held at Paradise Valley Community College (Phoenix, AZ area) on April 4 and 5. Jennifer Quinn will be the key-note speaker – which means we'll have lots of fun at the banquet. Jennifer was a co-editor of *Math Horizons*; and, she has co-authored *Proofs that Really Count: The Art of Combinatorial Proof*, with Art Benjamin.

Find out more about the conference at:
http://arizmatyc.org/wp/?page_id=631

A REMEMBRANCE

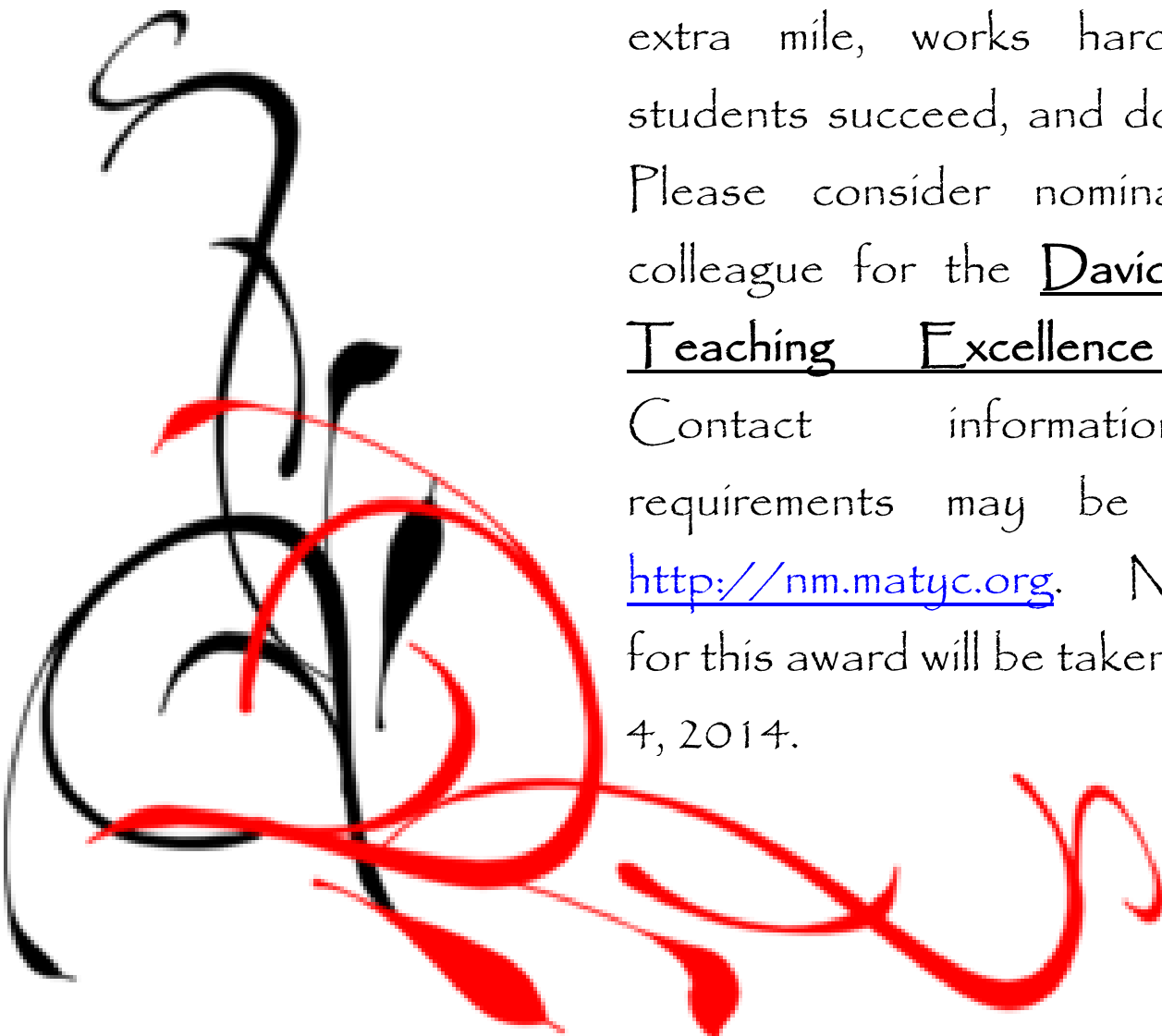
“Lee Lorch, a soft-spoken mathematician whose leadership in the campaign to desegregate Stuyvesant Town, the gargantuan housing development on the east side of Manhattan, helped make housing discrimination illegal nationwide, died on Friday at a hospital in Toronto. He was 98.”

You can read the rest of the article about Lee Lorch at
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/02/nyregion/lee-lorch-desegregation-activist-who-led-stuyvesant-town-effort-dies-at-98.html?hpw&rref=obituaries>

He has done so much for women in mathematics and people of color in mathematics – opened so many doors for them. He should be a hero to all of us who work as mathematicians.

NOMINATIONS WANTED

Do you have a colleague who teaches mathematics and goes the extra mile, works hard to help students succeed, and doesn't quit? Please consider nominating your colleague for the David Lovelock Teaching Excellence Award. Contact information and requirements may be found at <http://nm.matyc.org>. Nominations for this award will be taken until April 4, 2014.





**Michelle Jimenez Memorial
and
Vickie Froehlich Memorial**

If you know of a student that has completed a minimum of 12 credit hours (6 hours must be from a New Mexico or El Paso 2-year college), maintained an overall GPA of 3.2 and a cumulative GPA of 3.5 in all MATH courses, please refer them to the NMMATYC website at <http://nm.matyc.org> so that they may apply for both of our available scholarships. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$500. The deadline to apply is April 4, 2014.

Scholarship winners for 2013



Ashley Cook
Michelle Jimenez
Scholarship
UNM Valencia



Laralee Hansen
Vicky Froehlich
Scholarship
DACC



Trey Griffin
Celeste Nossitor Book
Award
EPCC

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

For the past two years I have been the NMMATYC newsletter editor – it's time for a change! There are two electronic newsletters each year, so the job is not all that time consuming. I'll be happy to give you the format I've been using, and you could take it from there. If interested, email me, Joanne Peeples (joannep@epcc.edu) or let Diana Orrantia (dianao@epcc.edu) know.

It's Time for Elections - Nominations wanted

It's time to elect new officers – the positions open are President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you want to nominate yourself, or if you know someone who is interested in running for one of these offices, please contact our president Philip Kaatz (philipk@mesalands.edu) or our nominating committee chair Liz Gamboa (egamboa@dacc.nmsu.edu)

Our current President-Elect (and soon to be president), Diana Orrantia, will also be looking for people to fill the other board positions. Should you want to be part of the NMMATYC Board, please contact Diana at (dianao@epcc.edu).

Math, Young People, and the Future

By: Diana Orrantia

So I'm on the phone with my daughter, Olivia, who is a freshman student at Texas Tech University this year and I'm just pleased as punch that she's called her mom who is a big baby and misses her terribly. Usually college kids call to ask for money, cry to tell you how unreasonable their roommate has become because they actually expect them to clean up after themselves (how dare they!), or let you know that they will not be coming home for Spring Break. Then there's my kid, ha ha ha!

Olivia: "Mom, I hate my (fill in the subject matter) teacher because they gave us an assignment today in class that no one could finish because it was due within that hour and I'm upset about my grade being jeopardized." Like a good mom and teacher I suggest she go speak with the professor, express her concern politely, but realize that it may just be one of those things where the grade stands, and the teacher's response of "this is a learning experience and I didn't actually expect anyone to finish it on time" will have to be that...a part of growing up and realizing there are just some things we can't control.

So here comes the good part though. Olivia then suddenly brightens up and says: "Mom, can I present at NMMATYC again this year? I have a class where we are doing research in Math and that would be cool if I could present!" Wow...she didn't ask for money, she didn't complain about her friends ...but I shouldn't be surprised, she never has. She instead asks to speak at NMMATYC. So I got to thinking...

Why can't we encourage youth participation in NMMATYC? There is obviously interest...and no, it's not what you are thinking...it's not because her mom is a math teacher, ha ha. . I was never a helicopter mom or even so much as said "hey, you need to love math" ...my girls just did because I made it fun for them and they loved it!

Not to stray from the topic though...why can't we have our young people become members, share ideas, make connections, grow with us, and take us ahead into the future?

So this is what I propose and challenge everyone in NMMATYC to: write a letter to the principals of your surrounding high schools/STEM schools/early college high schools and ask them to help promote membership in NMMATYC. Give them reasons as to why their students would want to join. I for one will be doing it at our early college high schools in my hometown. Let's see what our youth has to offer and as a benefit watch our membership grow, our young people become more involved in our field, and expose them to new opportunities they might not have otherwise known existed!

So, back to Olivia...you may be wondering if she's presenting. Yes, but that will have to be a surprise as to what...she hasn't even told me, ha ha. Olivia is our youngest member by the way...she's 17 and a math major! Because of her presentation last year, we got some coverage in a New Mexico newspaper last year. Young and already doing things...let's get them all to be much more involved!

$$\sqrt{-1} \quad 8 \quad \Sigma \quad \pi$$

$$\frac{\sqrt{-1}}{8}$$

Mathematics Project – a Fun Experiment

by Joanne Peebles

In math classes we are always trying to get our student to think logically, and to write their answers clearly. I found that most of the time I wasn't all that successful! One of our English teachers, Kelli Wood, who has an office down the hall from me was teaching a technical writing class. She had given the students an interesting assignment – so interesting that I decided to swipe it, and use it in several of my classes (it has worked well in both my Math in the Modern World Class and in my Discrete Math Class)

The students were told to find some objects at home (at least 10, and not all the same) and assemble an object. The object they decided to make could be something that was recognizable, or just an art object. Then, they were to take the object apart, write concise directions on how to assemble the object – making sure not to mention the name of the object. Bringing directions and the unassembled item to class, they give all of it to a fellow classmate (a Beta Tester) to see if that person can assemble the item.

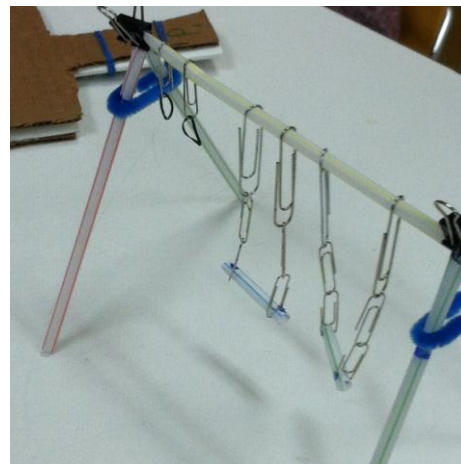
We've all tried to assemble something we've purchased at Home Depot (or ordered online) and the instructions have been horrid! This experiment has the student thinking about how to order things (logically), how to describe what one needs to do to relate the instructions clearly to someone, who has no idea of what he is assembling. It also gives the student a chance to correct (improve?) the instructions.

Besides, it's always fun to hear students laughing in a math class – and they do like to show off their creations.

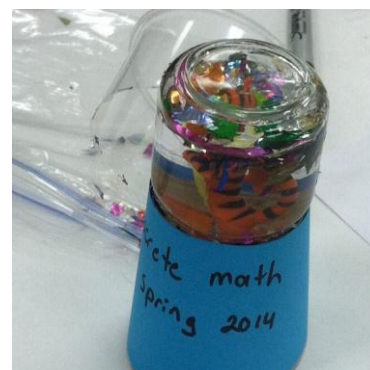
Below is the model of a lung:



Here is a swing set:



And a snow globe:



Mathematics Project – a Fun Experiment (cont.)

Project 1: (50 points)

For this assignment you will write a set of instructions.

Outside of class:

Build some object using ordinary, common (some may be not-so-common) objects found at home (such as paper, pencils, cardboard, post-it notes, paperclips, tape, straws, etc.) to make your object. You must be able to bring to class all the pieces necessary for assembling your object. (No power tools or illegal things, which include drinking-alcohol on campus.) Your object should consist of 10 or more pieces (at least 5 of which are different). **The assembly time should not be greater than 10 minutes.**

Then write a manual/set of instructions that explains how to build your object (do not "name" your object in this set of instructions) – be sure to include a list of needed materials; one of your classmates will try to build your object using only the manual for guidance. This means you should tailor your instructions toward an audience of typical university undergraduates. Make sure your name clearly appears on the document.

There is no required length for this manual; take as much space as you need to get the job done, and no more. The focus of this assignment is prose, not pictures, so you **may not** use graphics. When you bring your components to class, be sure not to bring them in a package that shows the final product.

In class (on January 30):

On our Beta Testing day bring the disassembled components of your object and two copies of a good draft of your manual to class – one to turn in to me, and one for your Beta Tester to use. If your object requires tools—screwdrivers, scissors, etc.—make sure and bring those as well.

You will build each other's objects in class, which we expect will generate suggestions for improvements to your manual.

Also, on the 30th, I want you to turn in your original instructions and a paragraph or two about how you decided on the object

and comments on how you decided the format of your manual.

Final Drafts due to me by February 6

- Final drafts (with improvements, if necessary), and the Beta Tester response (suggestions) on a copy of your original instructions.
- A paragraph or two on the corrections you made to your instructions (or why no corrections were necessary).
- Components/Materials (make sure they're in some sort of container)

Math 2305

J. Peeples

Instruction Beta Testing

The first rule of reading someone else's work is to be both honest and kind. You don't do the author any favors by simply saying, "Yeah, it looks okay." Don't be hesitant to say what you understood or what you didn't; just do it pleasantly, helpfully, and professionally.

1. Take another student's components and a copy of the instructions.
2. Following instructions, assemble the components.
3. As you work, mark on your copy of the instructions any questions that you wish it had answered, any assumptions that you had to make, or any other aspects that were not clear.
4. When you're finished, **write on your copy "Assembled by"** and your name.
5. Then find the author, show him or her, your product, and let the author make notes on any discrepancies between your assembly and what the author intended.

Grading

*Original Instructions and accompanying paragraph on January 30 -25 points

*Notes from Beta Tester + corrections to your manual - and accompanying paragraph on February 6 -15 points

*Creativity, thought and effort put into project -10 points

Total 50 points

2012-2013 NMMATYC Board

Past – President	Ali Ahmad (Dona Ana C.C.)	mailto:aahmad@nmsu.edu
President	Phillip Kaatz (Mesalands C.C.)	philipk@mesalands.edu
President-Elect	Diana Orrantia (El Paso C.C.)	mailto:dianoo@epcc.edu
Treasurer	Rachel Black (Central N.M. C.C.)	rblack8@cnm.edu
Secretary	Melinda Camarillo (El Paso C.C.)	mramos91@epcc.edu
Newsletter Editor	Joanne Peeples (El Paso C.C.)	joannep@epcc.edu
Membership Committee Chair	Suzanne Hill (Dona Ana C.C.)	mailto:suhill@nmsu.edu
Nominating Committee Chair	Elizabeth (Liz) Gamboa (Dona Ana C.C.)	egamboa@dacc.nmsu.edu
AMATYC Delegate	Joanne Peeples (El Paso C.C.)	joannep@epcc.edu
Conference Chair 2014	Forrest Kaatz (Mesalands C.C.)	forrestk@mesalands.edu
Web Master	Ali Ahmad (Dona Ana C.C.)	mailto:aahmad@nmsu.edu
Articulation Task- Force Liaison	Alyne Fulte (New Mexico State Univeristy)	mailto:afulte@math.nmsu.edu

(Special Thanks to [Danielle Robinson](#) for helping put this newsletter together.)