The Math ConneXion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

http://www.imacc.org

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President's Message

What makes a good teacher? What makes a great teacher? Last night, I had a phone call from my eldest son, who just happens to be a high school math teacher. He had a question about an answer from his calculator, which he could not arrive at by hand. The actual problem isn't important, but what is important, is that he knew he needed to be able to find the answer without technology, so that he could explain it to his class. He is not afraid to make mistakes or admit that he doesn't know the answer. This, to me, is one quality of great teachers.

On last year's Allerton evaluation forms, many of you indicated that you want sessions that give you something that you can use in your classes. For this year's conference, I am planning sessions where we can share best practices and things we tried in the classroom that did not work.

What is new at your school, in the state and in the country? AMATYC is about to release "Beyond Crossroads" and their technology statement. The "Beyond Crossroads" deals mostly with assessment. What is your school doing on assessment? We will have a session where you can share and get ideas on how to assess student learning. Does your school have a technology statement? Is it consistent with AMATYC's? This will be the topic of another session. What other questions/issues do you have about technology? Do you realize that paper and pencil at one point were considered technology?

If you would like to give a presentation at IMACC, please contact me. If you are interested in running for the board, contact Cathy. If you would like to be on a committee, let the committee chair and myself know. We want your involvement!

Brenda

Institutional Members

Institutional membership is an important source of support for IMACC. If the year after your college's name is 2006, then your membership expired on June 30 and your college needs to renew. If your college is not listed, you need to join! Talk to your department head or coordinator and make sure your college renews or joins.

You will find the combined Individual and Institutional membership forms at the end of this issue.

College	Expires
BLACK HAWK COLLEGE	2006
CARL SANDBURG COLLEGE	2007
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE	2006
COLLEGE OF LAKE COUNTY	2007
ELGIN COMM COLLEGE	2007
HARPER COLLEGE	2007
ILLINOIS CENTRAL COLLEGE	2006
ITT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE	2006
JOHN A. LOGAN COMM COLL	2007
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE	2006
KANKAKEE COMMUNITY COLL.	2006
KASKASKIA COLLEGE	2004
KISHWAUKEE COLLEGE	2007
LEWIS & CLARK COMM COLL	2007
LINCOLN LAND COMM COLL	2007
MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE	2006
MORAINE VALLEY COMM COLL	2006
MORTON COLLEGE	2006
OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE	2007
PARKLAND COLLEGE	2006
PRAIRIE STATE COLLEGE	2006
RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLL	2008
ROCK VALLEY COLLEGE	2006
SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY	2005
SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE	2007
SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COL	2007
WAUBONSEE COMM COLLEGE	2007

See the ConneXion online to read an article by Jim Roznowski (AMATYC Midwest Regional VP) about the latest news from the folks at AMATYC and view exciting pictures of the IMACC Fall Board Meeting!!

Go to www.imacc.org

Enhanced Online ConneXion

Beginning with this issue of The Math ConneXion, each newsletter will be available in two formats, print and online. You can opt to receive an e-mail notification when the latest issue of The Math ConneXion is available for viewing. Then you can just click the link in the message and you will be taken to the online edition of the newsletter. If you choose, you could then print it out. Or just read it off your computer screen. It's your option.

Besides saving the organization some money and the planet some trees, there is another benefit. As editor, I sometimes need to cut items to make the pages come out to a multiple of four. This is not a consideration for an online version. So, there will be a few bonuses in each online version.

If you would like to opt to receive an e-mail notification instead of the print version, please e-mail Steve Kifowit at skifowit@prairiestate.edu with the words "online newsletter" in the subject line and tell him what e-mail address you would like the notice sent to.

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Treasurer's Report

IMACC Treasurer Steve Kifowit presented a complete treasurer's report at the IMACC Fall Board Meeting on October 14. The General Fund saw an increase of $1855.66 over the past year. The Scholarship Fund is holding steady at just under $19,000. If you would like to see a complete report of either the General Fund or the Scholarship Fund, please e-mail Steve Kifowit at skifowit@prairiestate.edu.

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Deadline for Submissions

Winter 2007 Issue—January 15, 2007
Summer 2007 Issue—May 15, 2007
Fall 2007 Issue—October 15, 2007

The following Windows-based formats are most easily used:

Text: MS Word or Rich Text File formats
Spreadsheet: Excel format

Rodger Hergert, Connexion Editor
RodgerH@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us

A Message from Vicki Beitler

There is a motto that I have always taken great stock in, and I learned it a long time ago in the Girl Scouts: Be Prepared. At the Friday night banquet held at the recent IMACC Conference, I definitely wasn't prepared when Jim Trefzger announced that I was the winner of the Distinguished Service Award. What a surprise! My first thought was – don't you have to be one of the "old-timers" to earn that? (uh-oh) Did I really do those things? In thinking back over the last 18 years and my relationship with IMACC, I really have to give the credit to the Parkland Mathematics faculty, and the people of IMACC, all of whom were a tremendous influence on my career.

When I first came to Parkland in 1988, I was a newcomer to community college education. LaVerne McFadden was the new chair of the Math Department, and Dale Ewen had moved into upper administration. Mac and Dale had been highly involved in IMACC for years, including terms as President; Dale was also one of the founding members. My new office mate was Caroline Goodman, and she and colleague Dan Alexander had served on the IMACC Board of Directors. In 1988, Caroline and Bob Rubel were the Conference Coordinators. Even Jim Trefzger, who arrived at Parkland that fall as I did, already had years of service to IMACC under his belt, including a term as President the year before. Nearly all our full time math faculty attended the IMACC conference, more or less as a rite of spring.

At the IMACC meetings, I found a group of caring, dedicated professionals, interested in providing the best for their students, and active in various ways with IMACC and related organizations around the state. The sessions were lively and useful, and often the presentations were given by IMACC members themselves.

As you can see, it was impressed on me right away that this is simply what was done at the community colleges; you got involved. It was just part of what you did. So, I guess I had no choice! Nevertheless, I wouldn't have wanted it any other way. It has been a rich, rewarding, and worthwhile experience.

Thank you, Parkland and IMACC. You're the best!

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News & Notes from the Membership

- After 42 years of service to Southeastern Illinois College, calculus instructor, Alan Morgan, announced his retirement at the end of the spring 2006 semester. Kim Martin has assumed the position of calculus instructor. After 5 years, Jack Mummert stepped down as chair of the Math and Science Division and returned to full-time mathematics instruction. The new chair is biology instructor, Jason Fitzgerald. The position formerly held by Alan Morgan remains unfilled.

- The College of Lake County has a full-time tenure track position in Mathematics for Fall 2007. The application deadline is January 12, 2007. Please visit the College's website at www.clcillinois.edu for the "Announcement of Faculty Opening" job posting.

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Want to make a difference?

If you are interested in serving on the **IMACC Board of Directors**, please contact Catherine Moushon, Elections Chair, by December 31, 2006 at cmoushon@elgin.edu.

IMACC Award for Teaching Excellence

This annual award will be given to an outstanding mathematics teacher in a community college. The recipient of this award will then be nominated for the AMATYC Award for Teaching Excellence. Please take time to nominate a colleague whom you feel is an outstanding teacher and who meets the following criteria.

a) Instructional Effectiveness and Support of Students
   innovative teaching strategies, alternative assessment methods, curriculum development, creating a learning environment for all students, accessible to students in and out of the classroom, etc.
b) Professional Involvement and Professional Development/Renewal Activities
   active participation in professional organizations, speeches, articles, conferences, etc.
c) Service to Departments/Division/College
   active contributor to college community

Nominees must be IMACC members whose primary assigned duties must be delivering instruction in an associate degree granting program. Nominees must have the equivalent of a minimum of 5 years of full-time teaching experience. Individuals can be selected for the award only once.

IMACC members and non-members, such as a supervisor, may nominate. Members may nominate themselves.

Nominations must include:
a) **cover letter** from nominator addressing the three criteria above (not to exceed 3 pages)
b) completed **nomination form** (available on the IMACC website).

Please submit nominations to Paul McCombs, Awards Committee Chair by December 15, 2006.

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IMACC Board of Directors

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Company's Coming

Jim Roznowski
AMATYC Midwest Vice President

At one time or another, I am sure you have all experienced the frenzy associated with planning for the arrival of a house guest or two. Imagine if you were expecting a thousand visitors planning to stay for four days. That is the prospect that Jan Hoeweler and her team have been working on for the past year as they prepared for the 32nd Annual AMATYC Conference to be held in Cincinnati. The conference center has been renovated, the hotels are ready, the program is set, and fun activities have been planned. I hope you all will be able to join us in Cincinnati in November.

Looking over the Cincinnati conference miniprogram you will find a variety of sessions covering all levels of mathematics. The highlight of the conference will be the release of AMATYC's new signature document, *Beyond Crossroads*. All AMATYC members will receive a copy of the document either at the conference or by mail. To celebrate the release of *Beyond Crossroads* and to recognize all the people who have worked on the document, a Friday evening celebration has been planned at the Underground Railroad Museum. In addition, our regional meeting is scheduled for Friday morning. As in San Diego, breakfast will be provided. Remember the early registration deadline is September 30, 2006.

Representing you at the Delegate Assembly in Cincinnati are Illinois state delegates Pat Blus from National-Louis, Terra Stamps from Prairie State, and Jim Trefzger from Parkland; and IMACC delegates Brenda Alberico from College of DuPage, Catherine Moushon from Elgin, and Steve Kifowit from Prairie State. The regional breakfast is a good opportunity to meet your delegates and share with them your ideas and concerns about AMATYC.

Looking beyond Cincinnati, we are planning for the 2007 AMATYC Conference to be held in New Orleans. Proposals to present in at the 2007 conference will be accepted November 1, 2006 through February 1, 2007. Please consider submitting a proposal to share the exciting things we are doing in the Midwest with your colleagues from around the country.

If you are interested, there are many ways to get more involved in AMATYC. (Visit www.amatyc.org for more information on any of the following.)

- If you are new to the profession watch for information on Project ACCCESS (Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, and Service). The third cohort meets for the first time in Cincinnati. Although this is the last group funded under the grant received from Exxon/Mobil, AMATYC is investigating ways to continue the project.

- AMATYC's National Science Foundation grant, Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum (MAC^3) will be offering two institutes in 2007. The first will be in Florida in January and the second will be in Washington in August. The project supports curriculum development by faculty teams consisting of a mathematics faculty member and faculty from other disciplines. The deadline for applications for the January institute is October 16.

- Consider nominating yourself or a colleague for AMATYC's Teaching Excellence Award. Under its new structure, regions are not limited to one recipient but the number of recipients is a function of the number of nominations. The deadline for nominations is December 8, 2006.

- Watch for an article in the next AMATYC newsletter outlining the new academic committee structure. I hope that the new or redesigned committees will encourage your involvement in this important component of AMATYC.

- Finally, for the full AMATYC experience, consider submitting a nomination for the AMATYC Executive Board. The national positions of: President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer and the position of Midwest Vice President are up for election. Because of you, my colleagues, my terms as your VP have been a great experience. I am sure whomever succeeds me will feel the same. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2007.

Hope to see you all in Cincinnati or as I visit your affiliate. If there is anything I can do to help you, please let me know at jaroznow@delta.edu.

IMACC Board of Directors Meeting

October 14, 2006

In recent history, the IMACC Board Meeting each fall was held either at the current IMACC president's college or at a centrally located college (like Parkland). For a variety of reasons, current IMACC president Brenda Alberico (College of DuPage) decided to host the meeting at her house. The accommodations were fantastic and Brenda received many positive comments about her house and the town of Minooka. Below are some photos of the event.

Above left: Dave Clydesdale enjoys a slice of delicious Minooka-style pizza.
Above right: The Board is hard at work at Brenda's dining room table.
Below: Terra Stamps, Paul McCombs, and Diane Martling discuss either high-level mathematical concepts or creative uses of whipped cream during a break in the meeting.

Upcoming Conferences

Organization	Dates	Location
AMATYC	November 2 – 5, 2006	Cincinnati, OH
AMS/MAA	January 4 – 7, 2007	New Orleans, LA
NCTM	March 21 – 24, 2007	Atlanta, GA
IMACC	April 12 – 14, 2007	Monticello, IL
MAA (Mathfest)	August 3 – 5, 2007	San Jose, CA
NCTM (regional)	October 25 – 27, 2007	Kansas City, MO
AMATYC	November 15 – 18, 2007	New Orleans, LA
AMS/MAA	January 6 – 9, 2008	San Diego, CA
NCTM	April 9 – 12, 2008	Salt Lake City, UT
MAA (Mathfest)	July 31 – August 2, 2008	Madison, WI
AMATYC	November 20 – 23, 2008	Washington, DC

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Scholarship Committee Report

Recall that there were no applicants for the IMACC Memorial Fund Scholarship in 2005. Please consider nominating a deserving student or two from your institution this year. Remember that the scholarship is for students intending to major in mathematics or mathematics education. Applications are due March 15, 2007. Complete information about this award, including the application form, is provided on the IMACC website (http://www.imacc.org).

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Delegates and Representatives

AMATYC Delegates

Affiliate Delegates

Steve Kifowit	Prairie State College
Cathy Moushon	Elgin CC
Brenda Alberico	College of DuPage

State Delegates

Jim Trefzger	Parkland College
Patricia Blus	National-Louis Univ.
Terra Stamps	Prairie State College

Representatives to Other Mathematics Organizations

ISMAA

Paul McCombs	Rock Valley College

MOMATYC

Tim Grant	SW Illinois College

NCTM

Diane Martling	W. R. Harper College

ICTM

Diane Martling	W. R. Harper College

IMACC Awards

Below is a list of the awards that are traditionally given at the Allerton Conference. A nomination form for Life Membership Award can be found on the IMACC website (http://www.imacc.org). To nominate someone for the others, simply submit a letter of support to Paul McCombs, IMACC Awards Committee Chair (pmccombs@ednet.rvc.cc.il.us).

The **James Armstrong Award** was established in 1978 to honor the late University of Illinois professor James Armstrong, whose leadership fostered a spirit of cooperation between two-year college mathematics teachers and the mathematics faculties at four-year colleges and universities. The Award is to be given annually to a four-year college or university professor who continues this tradition of cooperation and assistance with the two-year colleges.

The **Distinguished Service Award** is to honor one of our members for a career of outstanding service to IMACC. This award may be given annually under the conditions that the nominee must:
a) Be an active member who has participated in IMACC for at least 10 years (retired members are eligible).
b) have held an elected office (President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Director) in IMACC.
c) have served at least 4 years in some combination of elected offices, committee appointments, ConneXion Editor, or conference coordinator.
d) have the recommendation of an IMACC member familiar with the nominee's qualifications.

For the **Life Membership Award**, (IMACC members who are retiring) the recipient must have:
a) been a member of IMACC for at least 10 years (not necessarily in a row)
b) been a regular attendee at the IMACC conference or have other significant contributions to the organization.

IMACC Committees 2006-2007

Awards

Paul McCombs*	Rock Valley College
Rodger Hergert	Rock Valley College
Richard Diefenbach	Shawnee Community College
Diane Martling	William R Harper College
Brian Mercer	Parkland College

Budget

Steve Kifowit*	Prairie State College
Dave Clydesdale	William R Harper College
Rodger Hergert	Rock Valley College

Conference

Publishers	
Kevin Hastings*	Parkland College
Co-coordinator	
Diane Martling	William R. Harper College

Curriculum

Jim Harris*	John A. Logan College
John Bradburn	Elgin Comm. College, retired
Bob Cappetta	College of DuPage
Sandra Cox	Kaskaskia Community College
Jim Hajek	Lincoln Land CC, retired
Catherine Moushon	Elgin Community College
Terra Stamps	Prairie State College
Amanda Starkey	Southwestern Illinois College
Marilyn Zopp	McHenry County College

Historian

Jim Trefzger*	Parkland College

Webmaster

James Jones*	Richland Community College

Math ConneXion

Rodger Hergert*	Rock Valley College

Membership

Karen Froelich*	William R. Harper College
Sandra Cox	Kaskaskia Community College
Kathy LaBeau	William R. Harper College
Brenda Alberico	College of DuPage

Memorial Fund Scholarship

Angie Gum*	Lincoln Land Comm. College
Chris Cullop	Kishwaukee College
Diane Koenig	Rock Valley College
Tony Paris	Carl Sandburg College

Nominations & Elections

Catherine Moushon*	Elgin Community College
Brenda Alberico	College of DuPage
Dave Clydesdale	William R Harper College

Program

Brenda Alberico*	College of DuPage
Dave Clydesdale	William R Harper College
Catherine Moushon	Elgin Community College

(* indicates committee chair)

Committee Chair Contact Information

If the chair is a Board member, see page 4 for contact information.
If the chair is an Officer, see page 1 for contact information. Other chairs are listed in this table.

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ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION of COMMUNITY COLLEGES

IMACC Individual Membership Form
2006-2007

Name: _____ School: _____

Home Address: _____ School Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____
_____

To which of the above addresses do you wish to have correspondence sent? HOME SCHOOL

Do you wish your name distributed with the IMACC database? YES NO

Membership Fees: 1 Year: $ 15.00 3 Years: $ 40.00 5 Years: $ 65.00

_____ + _____ = _____
Membership Fee Scholarship Contribution Total Enclosed

Please make checks payable to: IMACC

Mail to: IMACC, c/o Steve Kifowit, Prairie State College, 202 South Halsted Street, Chicago Heights, IL 60411

IMACC Institutional Membership Form*
2006-2007

Invoice: 200607 Membership Dues: $ 325.00 per year

IMACC Tax I.D. #: 371127733 Amount Enclosed: _____

Date: _____ Signed: _____ Title: _____

Please Complete The Following Information

School: _____ President: _____

Address: _____ Vice-President: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____ Contact Person: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Contact Phone: (_____) _____

Contact Email: _____

*IMACC's membership year begins July 1, 2006 and ends June 30, 2007. Annual dues must be paid by March 1, 2007 in order to receive a complimentary conference registration for the institutional representative.

Mathematical Web Gems

Here are some links that I have found through various sources that I thought I'd share with you. If there are any math sites that really knock your socks off, please send them to me and I'll get them in the next issue.

- The Online Journal of School Mathematics (NCTM)
  http://my.nctm.org/eresources/journal_home.asp?journal_id=6
- Interactivate - Java-based interactive math explorations
  http://www.shodor.org/interactivate/
- Mathematical Moments (AMS) - Free posters of math applications
  http://www.ams.org/mathmoments
- GeoGebra - Free math software that combines geometry, algebra, and calculus
  http://www.geogebra.at/cms/
- Wholemovement - A new look at geometry
  http://wholemovement.com/

Membership Committee

Be sure to check the membership expiration date listed in your address label below. If your membership has expired or is about to expire, you can use the form on page 7 to renew. In addition, if there are mathematics faculty at your college who are not members of IMACC, please invite them to join. Retiring IMACC members may consider "sponsoring" the membership for the person hired to take their place by paying for their first year's IMACC dues ($15).

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