

The Math ConneXion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Volume 45

Fall 2015

Number 1

President's Message



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I hope everyone had a great summer. Fall semester is well underway and if you're like me, your desk is piled high with grading, paperwork, committee work and so on. My fall semester seems to get busier and busier every year.

The fall board meeting was held at Parkland College in early October. There were lots of good topics discussed. One of the first things coming up involves the whole membership. We will be voting, by electronic ballot, to elect new board members and officers. You are only eligible to vote if your membership is current before January 15, 2016. Please visit the IMACC website, www.imacc.org to see if your membership is current. If your email address has changed, notify Steve Kifowit at Skifowit@prairiestate.edu. If you are interested in running for an officer position or a position on the board of directors, please contact Paul McCombs at p.mccombs@rockvalleycollege.edu.

Some topics at the fall board meeting included the demise of COMPASS and the new AP score legislation. The end of the COMPASS test affects many colleges in the state and there has been a lot of questions surrounding what schools should do about placement in the wake of this news. The state forcing schools to award credit for a 3 on AP exams is another hot button issue most schools will need to deal with very soon. In order to gather information from schools that may have already made these changes, the Placement and Assessment Committee will be sending around a short survey about these topics as well as a couple other placement related items. The contact person at each school should receive the survey and pass it on to the faculty member that is best able to answer it. The more participation we get, the better! Please make sure your school fills out the survey. The results will be shared with the whole membership after they get compiled. I am planning to schedule a round table style discussion session about placement, the demise of COMPASS, and the new AP legislation for the conference in the spring.

This is a good time to remind you to update the contact person at your school with IMACC. There are going to be a few pieces of informational material sent out over the year to the contact person of each school. It is important to IMACC that the contact person from each school keep their department up to date on anything they receive from the board. To that end, the board would like to encourage the contact person to be on Facebook so that any announcement posted can be passed on. Deanna Welsch and Kyra Rider have been doing a great job getting the Facebook page up and active over the past 2 years. I'd also like to encourage all members to follow the page and post items you feel are relevant to the organization on there. If you have any questions please contact, Kyra at Kyra.rider@kishwaukeecollege.edu

(continued on next page)

Deadline for Submissions:

Winter 2016-January 15
Summer 2016-April 15
Fall 2016- October 15

Submit items to:
Diane Koenig, Editor
The Math ConneXion

Online Math ConneXion

The online version can be found at
<http://www.imacc.org>

Is Your Membership Current?

Be sure to check the membership expiration date listed on the IMACC website. If your membership has expired or is about to expire, you can use the form on page 10 to renew. In addition, if there are mathematics faculty at your college who are not members of IMACC, please invite them to join. Please take time to also check the Institutional Membership for your school.

(President's Message continued)

Another topic that was addressed at the conference was electronic voting on issues that the entire membership votes on. A good example of this is the Statement on the Use of Geometry as a Prerequisite for General Education Math Courses. This statement was proposed at the last board meeting and is scheduled to be voted on at the next board meeting. For years, this has been the traditional way that voting on issues has been done. An issue is brought up one year and voted on the next. This method is a tradition and I believe one that stems from the lack of technology and communication tools available when the organization was young. It is important to note that this 2 year process is a tradition and not in the constitution or by-laws of IMACC. Since we updated to electronic voting for board members and officers a few years ago, we have been getting very good participation in the voting process. We've actually been getting higher numbers of votes than the number of people who attend the business meetings at the conference. The board has decided to go forward with an electronic voting system that includes an online period of discussion before any vote can occur. I am currently working with our Webmaster, James Jones on how this can be accomplished. I will keep you updated on the 'how' but wanted to mention a few of the 'whys' that the board discussion. One reason, which I've already mentioned, today's technology allows us to communicate very efficiently. One result of this is that state issues are being decided at a faster pace. Whether that's good or bad, IMACC wants to be involved in these decisions and help shape the state's approach to math education. Being proactive is the way we can stay involved. This means updating our procedures to keep up with the current state affairs in IL. Another reason is inclusion. The way we currently vote, anyone not at the business meeting at the conference does not get to vote. Electronic voting and discussion would ensure that all member have the ability to have their voice heard. If all members were able to participate, even if they don't attend the conference the answer to 'What does my IMACC membership get me?' has a much better answer. Currently, everything is done at the conference and if you don't attend, there really isn't a reason to renew your membership until you can attend again. If members could participate and vote during the year on state related issues, then there would be a good reason to keep an active membership going from year to year. One hope is that we can leverage this new inclusiveness to increase our membership in IMACC. I will be writing more about this in the next newsletter after James and I discuss more details about the process itself. Stay tuned....

Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to work with the organization. As president, I am able to see the hard work by many of our members to keep our state and community colleges on the cutting edge of math education, both in and out of the classroom. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Andy Geary

Institutional Members

Black Hawk College	2015
Carl Sandburg College	2016
College of DuPage	2013
College of Lake County	2016
Elgin Community College	2016
Harper College	2016
Heartland Community College	2015
Illinois Central College	2015
Illinois State University	2014
John A Logan College	2015
Joliet Junior College	2015
Kankakee Community College	2015
Kishwaukee College	2017
Lake Land College	2016
Lewis & Clark Community College	2015
Lincoln Land Community College	2016
McHenry Community College	2015
Moraine Valley Community College	2015
Morton College	2016
Parkland College	2015
Prairie State College	2015
Rend Lake College	2015
Richland Community College	2015
Rock Valley College	2015
Sauk Valley Community College	2013
Shawnee College	2015
South Suburban College	2015
Southwestern Illinois College	2015
Triton College	2015
Waubensee Community College	2015
Wilbur Wright College	2015

In Memory of

JERRY FRANG

Rock Valley College Retired Professor, Jerry Frang, 1949-2015, of Rockford, IL. One of Jerry Frang's legacies is that he was either teaching or finding ways to make others laugh. During his career at Rock Valley, Jerry was an active member in the math department and a longtime member of IMACC. Jerry served our country during the Vietnam War. He befriended everyone he met and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

EDWIN T. SCHULZ

Elgin Community College Professor Emeritus, Edwin T. Schulz, 85, of Rockford, IL. passed away surrounded by his family Friday, September 25th, 2015. Ed was a mathematics professor from 1966-1987. We stand on the shoulders of giants, Ed had broad shoulders and will be greatly missed. He leaves behind his wife, Diane Schulz; daughter Catherine Schulz; stepchildren, Julia Flores and David John; grandchildren, Elysse Bennett, Olivia Flores, and Claudette Flores.

Annual Conference at Allerton

Our Annual Conference at Allerton is March 31-April 2, 2016. Our keynote speaker will be Herb Gross, the founding president of AMATYC. Herb will be talking about his time at the start of AMATYC and his recent TEDx Talk. You can check out his website for some of his fascinating work at

www.mathasasecondlanguage.com

Accommodations for the conference will be available at Allerton House but if you are planning to stay off site you will need to make your own arrangements. One suggestion would be in Monticello at the Best Western. There are also nice hotels in Decatur, which is within a short driving distance from the Allerton House Conference Center.

Presenting at IMACC

Greetings fellow IMACC members,

The next IMACC conference is closer than you think! We are looking for presenters for the breakout sessions.

The conference is March 31st-April 2nd.

Breakout sessions are held on Friday, April 1st and Saturday morning, April 2nd.

Presenting at a state level conference is an excellent experience, a great way to get started on presentations for larger conferences and is a great opportunity for professional development.

If you'd like to present a session at the next IMACC conference, please go to the link below and fill out the speaker form. Please send it to jgeary@harpercollege.edu by December 1st. If you have any questions please email the address above.

http://www.imacc.org/conference/2016_speaker_information_form.docx

Webinar Overview:

From COMPASS to ALEKS: The Move to Improve Initial Course Placement Recording

This is an overview of the process that Harper College went through in deciding to switch from COMPASS to ALEKS PPL. Harper initiated the process in 2013 and ran a study with the help of Vanderbilt University to look into the differences between the placement services. With the impending demise of COMPASS, this may be information your school would like to know.

The webinar was presented on Tuesday, November 3rd but was recorded. If you'd like to watch the recorded webinar, you can click on this link to view it (1 hr 2 min)

[Click Here to Play](#)

If you're going to be at AMATYC, this talk will be presented live on Thursday, November 19th in New Orleans.

For questions on the content of the webinar, please contact:

Chad Taylor (ctaylor2@harpercollege.edu),
Math Dept Chair at Harper College

Joe Scrima (jscrima@harpercollege.edu),
Testing Center Manager at Harper College

Andy Geary (jgeary@harpercollege.edu),
Math Dept at Harper College

News from the Elgin Community College Mathematics Department Submitted by: Chalyce Deterding

Elgin Community College is pleased to announce two new full-time hires in the Math department. The new faculty members who started this fall are Dr. Abigail Bailey and Michelle Kershner.

Dr. Abigail Bailey (Abby) comes from the small rural town in Illinois of Aledo. As a youngster she spent her time singing, dancing, thinking and serving ice cream cones. When she left Aledo for Northern Illinois University, none of these interests were left behind. She earned her PhD at Northern under the direction and guidance of John A. Beachy in 2011. Following in his footsteps, she focuses on mathematics interests in non-communicative ring and module theory. Together they have written two papers. In addition to realizing her love for math and teaching at NIU, she also found her husband, Chris, who was also in the graduate Math program. Together they have two lovely girls. After seven years of being a teaching assistant at NIU and an adjunct at Kishwaukee Community College, she started teaching full-time as an Assistant Professor at Harper College in fall 2010. We are happy to announce she now hails as a math Spartan at ECC!

Michelle Kershner earned her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Loyola University Chicago and started her career as an Actuary. That only lasted 2 years because according to her, "To say I was miserable as an Actuary would be an understatement." Her love for people and need for social interaction combined with her love of math, pointed her in the direction of teaching. She received her masters degree from National Louis University. Now she cannot imagine doing anything else. She has been teaching Mathematics at the college level for 13 years and her passion continues to grow. She has two children who keep her on her toes. She reads a lot, loves to travel and has a very large family. She has worked as an adjunct for ECC in the past but we are thrilled to announce she will be at ECC full time

News from Kishwaukee College Submitted by: Laurie Hoecherl

This fall, Kishwaukee College hired two new tenure-track faculty in the math department.

William Michels held a temporary full-time faculty position last year and has now received permanent status. Prior to that, he was an adjunct here as well as other area colleges. He has a M.S. in Pure Mathematics from Northern Illinois University.

Johnathon Ho came to us most recently from an adjunct position at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa. He holds a M.S. in Pure Mathematics from the University of Iowa.

Openings at Elgin Community College and Harper College

Elgin Community College is accepting applications for full-time tenure-track mathematics faculty, to start in the fall 2016 semester. We are seeking culturally competent faculty eager to work with a diverse population of students and demonstrate strategies for inclusion. Please visit <https://jobs.elgin.edu> for more information and to apply.

Harper College, located in Palatine, IL, will be searching for a well-qualified candidate to fill a full time, tenure track position starting in Fall 2016. The job information and application will be posted at <https://jobs.harpercollege.edu/cw/en-uc/#/listing/>

Call for Nominations

Memorial Fund Scholarship

Please consider encouraging deserving students from your institution to apply for the IMACC Memorial Fund Scholarship. Though the faculty's responsibility in the process is as recommender rather than nominator, it is still very much our hope that the faculty will initiate the scholarship application process by making their qualified students aware of the award, writing recommendation letters and encouraging students through the application process. Complete information about the IMACC Memorial Scholarship fund, including faculty recommendation form, student application form and an informational flyer to post on your campus is provided by clicking on 'Memorial Fund Scholarship' at the IMACC website, www.imacc.org Please add your name and contact information to the flyer so students can come to you with any questions, Recommendations are due by March 1, 2016.

Distinguished Service Award

The **Distinguished Service Award** is to honor on of our members of a career or outstanding service to IMACC. This award may be given annually under the conditions that the nominee must:

1. Be an active member who has participated in IMACC for at least 10 years (retired members are eligible)
2. have held an elected office in IMACC.
3. have served at least 4 years in some combination of elected offices, committee appointments, ConneXion editor, or conference coordinator.
4. have the recommendation of an IMACC member familiar with the nominee's qualifications.

The award is given at the annual IMACC conference. Nominations need to be submitted before March 1.

To nominate someone please submit a letter to Deanna Welsch, IMACC Awards Committee Chair.

(see contact information on next page)

Upcoming Conferences

2016	AMS/MAA	January 6-9th	Seattle, WA
2016	ICTCM	March 10-13th	Atlanta, GA
2016	IMACC	March 31- April 2nd	Monticello, IL
2016	ISMAA	April 8-9th	Jacksonville, IL
2016	MAA (MathFest)	August 3-6th	Columbus, OH

Committees

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Roberta Christie

Shawnee College
Sunil Koswatta
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Rodger Hergert

Rock Valley College
Tracey Hoy
College of Lake County
Diane Martling
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Paul McCombs
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Connie McLean

Black Hawk College
*(Past President & Keeper of
the Constitution/Bylaws)*

Jim Trefzger

Parkland College
(retired)(Historian)

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Kathy Almy, Rock Valley College
Abby Bailey, Harper College
Bob Cappetta, College of DuPage
Donna Carlson, Lake County
Roberta Christie, Shawnee
Sandra Cox, Kaskaskia
Tracey Hoy, Lake County
Dan Kernler, Elgin College
Jeremy McClure, Heartland
David Miller, Black Hawk College
Briana Mills, Black Hawk College
Fred Siegeltuch, City of Chicago
Tina Swiniarski, Triton College
Jennifer Watkins, John A Logan

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Kathleen LeBeau

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College of Lake County

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Memorial Fund Scholarship

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Tony Paris

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Connie McLean

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Parliamentarian

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Roberta Christie

Shawnee College

Diane Grzeczka

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Keven Hansen

Southwestern Illinois College

John Jackson

Olive-Harvey Community College

Tom Pulver

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Kelly Thannum

Illinois Central Community College

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Paul McCombs

Rock Valley College

Connie McLean

Black Hawk College



IMACC Individual Membership Form 2015 - 2016

Name: _____ School: _____

Home Address: _____ School Address: _____

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

Phone: _____ Phone: _____ ext. _____

Email: _____

To which address would you like correspondence sent? Home School

Do you wish your name distributed with the IMACC database? Yes No

Would you like to receive *The Math ConneXion* electronically? Yes No

An email will be sent to you notifying you when the *ConneXion* is available.
You may then visit the IMACC website and read or print the latest issue.

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 S Halsted St
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

IMACC's membership year begins July 1 and ends June 30. You may check your current membership status at the IMACC website <http://www.imacc.org/> or by looking at the printed label on your *The Math ConneXion*.



**ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**

**INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP FORM
2015 – 2016***

INVOICE 201516

AMOUNT DUE: \$350.00

(IMACC Tax I.D. #: 371127733)

ENTER AMOUNT: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____ TITLE: _____

Make check payable to IMACC
c/o Steve Kifowit
Prairie State College
202 S. Halsted St.
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

**IMACC Institutional Members may send
one institutional representative to the
annual IMACC meeting free of charge
(not including transportation.)**

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

Institution _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

President _____

Vice-President
or Dean of
Academic Affairs _____

Contact Person Information:

Title and Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

* IMACC's membership year begins July 1, 2015 and ends June 30, 2016. Annual dues must be paid by March 1, 2016 in order to receive the complimentary conference registration for the institutional representative.

Request for Information

Tell us what is happening at your school! Have any new hires, retirements, new initiatives we would love to hear about it. Send information to Diane Koenig

D.Koenig@rockvalleycollege.edu