The Math ConneXion

NEWSLETTER OF THE ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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President's Message

It was great to see so many of you at IMACC's annual conference, which was held in April at Allerton Park. Paul McCombs, serving as our 42nd president, did a wonderful job of planning, preparing, and running the conference. Dr. Nathan Tintle's opening session, "Teaching Statistics in the 21st Century," was an engaging and enjoyable look at the modern statistics classroom and the three S approach: statistic, simulation, and strength of evidence. Dr. Eugenia Cheng's Friday evening program was a lot of fun! She is a dynamic and inspirational speaker who has much to say about "Making Abstract Mathematics Palatable." If you missed her presentation, you can find her similar presentations on YouTube. Of course the conference also included many breakout sessions, round table discussions, and committee meetings. Thanks so much to all of you who presented, facilitated, or contributed in any way.

Another important event at the conference was the Friday evening award ceremony where we recognized the achievements of some of our members. Catherine Moushon (IMACC's 33rd president) of Elgin Community College received the Distinguished Service Award for her history of contributions and service to the organization. Paul McCombs of Rock Valley College received the IMACC Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition, Jack Mummert of Southeastern Illinois College and Kathirave Giritharan of John A. Logan College received Life Membership Awards. Please join me in congratulating these members.

I would like to thank Paul McCombs for his service as IMACC president. It was a pleasure working with him during my year as president-elect, and I look forward to our work together as he finishes his tenure as past-president. Paul has had a long and accomplished history in IMACC leadership, serving as an executive officer, director, or committee chair for most of 20 years. Paul will be a source of inspiration for new IMACC members for many years to come.

With the recent IMACC election, the board has been reshuffled a bit, and we welcome a new executive officer. Amy Frankel from Waubonsee Community College is our new secretary. The former secretary, Kyra Ryder, was elected to the board of directors. Linda Blanco of Joliet Junior College and Kim Martin of Southeastern Illinois College were reelected to the board, and Jeremy McClure of Heartland Community College will take a vacant board position. Natalie McGathey of Prairie State College was reelected as treasurer. Finally, Sunil Koswatta of Harper College is our new president-elect. He will continue to serve as conference coordinator for the 2018 conference, but will then be replaced by Rodger Hergert (who is also our new historian). Congratulations to all the newly elected board members! I look forward to working with you. IMACC strives for a diverse board with representation from all over Illinois. We appreciate new ideas and insights. If you are interested in running for a board position, contact myself or Sunil Koswatta. In fact, reach out and let us know if you are interested in getting involved in IMACC in any way.

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Deadline for Submissions:

Fall 2017 - October 15
Winter 2018 - January 15
Summer 2018 - April 15

Submit items to:
Diane Koenig, Editor
The Math ConneXion
d.koenig@rockvalleycollege.edu

Online Math ConneXion

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

Is Your Membership Current?

Be sure to check your 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

I am honored to be IMACC's new president. As treasurer from 2004-2016, I got to know IMACC pretty well, but this president thing is a little intimidating. I feel wholly unprepared. Fortunately, I have also gotten to know many of the past, present, and future (I hope) leaders of IMACC. I welcome and look forward to all the advice and wise counsel I can garner. Please share your ideas with me.

I would like to call attention to a handful of IMACC members who have been particularly influential to me: John Bradburn, Jim Trefzger, and Jim Harris; my early career mentors at Prairie State College: Dale Haywood, Judy Marwick, and Beverly Suhr; and the IMACC board members I've worked with since 2004, especially Beth Beno, Dave Clydesdale, Rodger Hergert, Bob Cappetta, and Paul McCombs. I am grateful for the mark they have all left on me.

Several weeks ago, you should have received an email about IMACC's website committee. That committee, led by Dan Kernler and Andy Geary, has been working quietly behind the scenes, but they are now ready to make leaps and bounds. We are very excited about enhancing our web presence and adding features to the website. This process will take some time. In the meantime, please use the current IMACC website to find the information and check your membership status. Remember that IMACC does not send out membership renewal notices. The newsletter typically serves as that notice--check your current status by looking at the online membership list or by sending a note to the treasurer, Natalie McGathey.

I encourage you to attend WISMATYC's annual conference at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, WI on Saturday, October 7. For the last few years, WISMATYC folks have regularly attended the IMACC Annual Conference and vise versa. These interstate connections can be quite valuable. And speaking of conferences, it is not too early to think about next year's IMACC conference. It will be held at Allerton Park, April 12-14, 2018. If you have any ideas for presentations or presenters, let me know.

Finally, I hope you will notice that we are trying out some new features in this edition of *The ConneXion.* Look forward to some regular columns such as a "Member Spotlight" to feature a particular IMACC member, a "Curriculum Corner" for news, announcements, or other ideas concerning curriculum, and "Something to Think About" for teaching tips, pedagogy, mathematical tidbits, or the like. We may even include a cartoon or a joke (but no jokes about Zorn's lemon or lemming, Abelian grapes, or Bananach spaces).

Please feel free to contact me at skifowit@prairiestate.edu if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions. I hope you have a great summer!

Steve Kifowit, IMACC President

Institutional Members

Black Hawk College	2017
Carl Sandburg College	2017
College of Lake County	2017
Elgin Community College	2016
Harper College	2017
Heartland Community College	2017
Illinois Central College	2017
John A Logan College	2017
Joliet Junior College	2017
Kankakee Community College	2017
Kishwaukee College	2018
Lake Land College	2016
Lewis & Clark Community College	2017
Lincoln Land Community College	2017
McHenry Community College	2017
Moraine Valley Community College	2017
Morton College	2017
Oakton Community College	2016
Parkland College	2017
Prairie State College	2017
Rend Lake College	2016
Richland Community College	2017
Rock Valley College	2016
Shawnee College	2017
South Suburban College	2017
Southwestern Illinois College	2017
Triton College	2015
Waubonsee Community College	2017
Wilbur Wright College	2015

Something to Think About

Small Card, Big Utility

by Amy Frankel
Waubonsee Community College

The first day of class I gather some basic information from my students by having them write the following on a 3" X 5" note card: legal name, name they prefer to be called, phone number, last math class (what, where, when), intended major, anything that may affect their learning or attendance, and anything else they think I should know. Why do this? A few reasons: to show I am interested in them as an individual, to avoid outing a transgender student who has not yet legally changed their name, to help me determine which applications to bring up based on majors, to help me make working groups based on interest or ability, and finally to help students with a disability self-identity early on. I often find out other information on these cards, that I might not otherwise know when they answer the questions "is there anything else I should know." It's where I usually find out if they are a student-athlete, or have a job that requires them to travel on short notice. In the end, it just provides information to help me make better decisions about my classroom and my teaching.

Send in your Nominations

Consider nominating a deserving student for the IMACC Memorial Fund Scholarship (deadline March 1), a deserving colleague for the Distinguished Service Award or the Excellence in Teaching Award (deadlines March 1), or retiring members meeting the qualifications for the Life Membership Award. More information about these awards can be found at www.imacc.org.

Curriculum Corner

by Keven Hansen

This past academic year has been filled with challenges and opportunities for Illinois Community College math departments, and the coming year looks to be even busier. It can be hard to keep up with all the changes, so we're hoping to make this corner of the newsletter your source for curriculum news. Here are some key updates:

- The IAI math general education panel recently updated its descriptions for Discrete Math, Finite Math, and Elementary Mathematical Modeling. Make sure your courses still meet the new requirement by checking in at www.itransfer.org.
- Many community colleges are receiving "Bridging the Gap" grants from ICCB for work on summer bridge programs, co-requisite pilots, and transitional math course development. The last of these is a part of new legislation which by 2018/19 will require all community colleges to work with high schools to develop courses for high school seniors that will certify them as "college-ready" upon graduation.
- The AP legislation passed a few years ago now includes IB credit. Colleges will need to review the International Baccalaureate exams to see what credit they will grant students taking these assessments.
- The Business majors panel of IAI has changed its description of BUS 901, Business Statistics. It is now more difficult to "cross list" a course with the majors panel and as a general education course.
- Co-requisite models are now being piloted by many colleges for a variety of courses. Te Curriculum Committee would love to hear about what's working (and not) in these models!
- The Curriculum Committee is forming a new task force to review the Articulation Guide descriptions for Statistics, Discrete Math, Finite Math, Elementary Mathematical Modeling, and Business Calculus. If you are interested in helping out, let us know!

If you have news, suggestions, concerns, or questions about curriculum, please contact the Curriculum Committee Chair, Keven Hansen (keven.hansen@swic.edu, 618-222-5611).

Upcoming Conferences

MAA(Math Fest)	July 26-29, 2017	Chicago, IL
WisMATYC	October 7, 2017	Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville, WI
AMATYC	Nov 9–12, 2017	San Diego, CA
IMACC	April 12–14, 2018	Monticello, IL

Highlights from IMACC Annual Conference

Past-president Paul McCombs (left) passes the gavel to President Steve Kifowit (right).

IMACC Conference attendees take time between sessions to speak with book reps, catch up with each other, and purchase raffle tickets.

Eugenia Cheng's presentation, and her amazing talents, encouraged us all to look for ways of describing mathematics through food, music, and even braids!

Purple hats identify board members as conference Q&A contacts to new attendees.

IMACC Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award-Paul McCombs

Congratulations to Paul McCombs who was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Award during the IMACC Annual Conference. Paul (center) is pictured at the right with nominator Diane Koenig and Rodger Hergert presenter. You can read more about Paul and his career in our inaugural "Member Spotlight" on page 7.

Distinguished Service Award-Catherine Moushon

Catherine Moushon, Elgin Community College, is the 2017 recipient of IMACC's Distinguished Service Award.

Everyone has their own story on their journey through education. I am grateful that mine includes Community Colleges and IMACC. Thank you to the nominator, the awards committee, and my colleagues for this Distinguished Service Award. It is humbling to receive a service award from an organization that has faithfully served me for the past thirty years.

As a part of roll call for one of the first department meetings that I attended at Elgin Community College, John Bradburn (our first IMACC president) asked each math faculty member whether they were registered for the IMACC conference. Apparently, my initial response was not satisfactory, as Barbara Juister (our tenth IMACC president) swiftly handed me a conference registration, an addressed envelope, and a check made out for my registration fee.

I had attended a couple of IMACC conferences when Barbara Juister was compiling the twenty-year history of IMACC. I was awed by the had work and personal risk that individuals undertook to launch IMACC and AMATYC. Bill Drezdzon and John Bradburn were writing constitutions for organizations that had yet to exist. They did this for us. Now we boast professional organizations at both state and national levels. IMACC is the first AMATYC Affiliate and predates AMATYC. Who among us is willing, as was Bill, to mortgage their own home as collateral for the cost of a first convention to which attendance was not guaranteed?

Math friends, take a moment to invite your new colleagues to IMACC. It made a difference in my career when someone did that for me. It was not long after MaryAnn Tuerk joined the ECCC Math department that she, also, was recruited into the IMACC ranks and became a recruiter herself. She introduced new hires with something like this, "Every session at IMACC/AMATYC is for YOU. They are all about community college mathematics education. you are encouraged to go."

I am fortunate to have been surrounded by mentors, who steered me toward this marvelous organization. Dom Magno introduced me to committee work, Ruth Anne Hartman tapped me for the Board and the Jims Trefzger, Harris, and Hajek schooled me in leadership. Kim Martin prompted "You ready?" and nominated me for President and, finally, Rita Fischbach said "I think you can." For each of you who have touched my life in many ways since I started in this business, I am truly grateful for all you have done. Thank you for being true professionals and for being inspirational! IMACC members are a great team. The continued success of IMACC is the result of your hard work and dedication. Thank you for the pleasure and the privilege of allowing me to work with you!

Catherine Moushon
2017 Distinguished Service Awardee

Member Spotlight

We have added a new feature to *The Math ConneXion* newsletter, a Member Spotlight. We hope to include this regularly, spotlighting a different IMACC member each issue. This inaugural section will feature a Spotlight of Past President, Dr. Paul McCombs, of Rock Valley College.

Paul McCombs

Dr. Paul McCombs is originally from North Carolina. He served in the USAF while working towards his A.A.S. in Criminal Justice. After his honorable discharge, he attended Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, earned an MS at Kansas State University, and after working for several years in the community college system, he returned to NIU and earned his doctorate in Mathematics Education, under Dr. Alan Zollman.

Paul has been a member of IMACC since 1998, when his first became a faculty member at Olney Central College. Soon after joining the faculty at Olney Central College he became a Project NExT fellow. In 2001, Paul relocated to Rock Valley College (RVC). While at RVC, he has served two terms on the IMACC board, served as the Awards Chair, served on the Membership committee and periodically on the Audit Committee.

In addition to serving on various IMACC committees, Paul has served two terms on the Illinois Section of the MAA Board. In addition to serving on the board, he has served on the Two Year College Committee, the Awards Committee, and the 2008 Conference Coordinator as well as the 2009 Conference Student Coordinator.

At the national level, Paul is a member of AMATYC's Research in Mathematics Education Committee, has recently served on AMATYC's Teaching Excellence Award Committee, and currently serves as a reviewer for AMATYC's journal, the *MathAMATYC Educator*.

Paul stays active at Rock Valley College, serving on various committees. He has served on the Student Services Committee, various tenure committees within the mathematics department and outside the department. He currently serves on the Rock Valley College Faculty of the Year Committee, the college's Sabbatical Leave Committee, and the Tuition/Enrollment Appeal Committee. He serves on the department's Math Appeals Committee, faculty Tenure Committee, and the Mathematics Department's Student Scholarship Committee. (Gustafson Award and the Mitchell Award)

Paul has taught most of the classes at the two-year college level, as well as some university level courses. He has taught at Olney Central College and at Vincennes University, IN. In addition to teaching full time at Rock Valley College, he has been an adjunct instructor for Rockford University.

Paul has been the honored recipient of Rock Valley College's Faculty of the Year Award, ISMAA's Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics Award, and recently the IMACC Teaching Excellence Award.

You may have observed Paul juggle at the recent IMACC conference. He said he learned to juggle while in middle school and occasionally juggles for a hobby. When Paul is not busy teaching he serves in the community with the Civil Air Patrol, an Auxiliary of the USAF. He has promoted to the Civil Air Patrol grade of Captain, and serves as the Rockford Composite Squadron's Aerospace Education Officer, where he regularly provides hands on activities to the cadets in the squadron. In the Civil Air Patrol, Paul has earned the Yeager Award, holds a Senior Rating in his Specialty Track, and has achieved Level III, earning him the Grover C. Loening Award. Recently while serving as a Training Officer at the 2017 Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol Cadet Encampment at Great Lakes Naval Station RTC, he was awarded the 2017 Honor Training Officer.

Paul is grateful to his colleagues at Rock Valley College who he says have mentored him throughout his tenure. Paul enjoys serving in his church, and spending time with his wife, Julie, and their two children, Kristiana and Nathanael.

News From IMACC Members

John A. Logan College

Kathirave Giritharan is retiring from John A. Logan College.

Kishwaukee College

Andrew Wang successfully earned his Ph.D. His dissertation title was "Constrained and Coxeter Table Algebras."

Kyra Rider will become Chair of Mathematics at Kishwaukee College starting Fall 2017.

Dominica Blalock and **Tenner Michaels** earned tenure.

Neal McKenna (retired) presented a paper titled "An examination of link functions choice in ordinal regression models" at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Antonio, TX in April 2017 with co-authors Dr. Thomas Smith and Dr. David Walker, both from NIU.

Moraine Valley Community College

The math department recently hosted the 15th Annual Integration Bee. We had 30 participants with **Sung Hyun Jang** winning the championship.

Rock Valley College

Jeremy Chamberlain will be leaving Rock Valley College after the summer semester. He has accepted a full-time faculty position at Harper College. RVC's loss is definitely Harper's gain.

Diane Koenig is running for AMATYC Midwest VP. Ballots will be sent to AMATYC Members beginning September 15th.

Southeastern Illinois College

Jack Mummert, math instructor at Southeastern Illinois College, received the Loren P. and Velma Dallas Outstanding Faculty award for 2017. In addition, he will be retiring on June 30, 2017. He is completing his 26th year of instruction at SIC, and his 30th years of teaching overall.

AMATYC News

Please consider joining one of AMATYC's Academic Committees, such as the Statistics Committee. The role of the AMATYC Statistics Committee is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of resources, and the discussion of issues of interest to the statistics community. In particular:

- To provide professional development and support for the teaching and learning of statistics
- To foster the use of the GAISE guidelines, making them relevant to the two-year college setting
- To serve as a liaison with four-year college faculty, other mathematical organizations and professional statistics organizations in order to share resources

In collaboration with the AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee (AMATYC's Joint Committee with the American Statistical Association), we maintain a webpage of information for statistics teachers. On the webpage you'll find links to classroom resources, pedagogy and course content, recordings of previous webinars, and more. A link to it is located on the main page of the AMATYC website under the "Quick Links to Popular AMATYC pages" heading. It is located at http://www.amatyc.org/?page=StatsResources

If you teach statistics, please consider joining our committee. To join or to learn more about the AMATYC Statistics Committee, please contact Julie Hanson at julie.hanson@clinton.edu.

AMATYC Webinars – Webinars are great form of Professional Development that you can do from the comfort of your own home or office. If you miss a webinar, you can always watch the recording online for free!

AMATYC Midwest Region on Facebook – I encourage you to join the AMATYC Midwest Regional Group on Facebook if you haven't already. This is a great place to see more frequent updates from around the region and have informal networking with others. We even had a contest over the winter break – congratulations to Meghan VanderMale on winning a new AMATYC tote bag and Starbucks gift card!

Consider Membership in AMATYC – I encourage you to learn about and join AMATYC if you are not a member. For more information about AMATYC events and activities, please check out the recent AMATYC newsletter at http://www.amatyc.org/?page=AMATYCNews or visit the AMATYC website at amatyc.org.

Thanks for all you do in the wonderful state of **Illinois** and for your continued support of IMACC and AMATYC. If there is ever anything that I can do to assist you at all, please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me at jonnyoaks@gmail.com. I hope you have a great summer!

Looking for some totally cool IMACC wear?

It's not too late! Golf shirt (polo) and hoodie orders will be taken until August 15.

Polo shirts are Nike Dry Fit. (Ladies' sizes seem to run small, so you may want to order a size larger than usual.) Please specify men's or women's style/cut along with your size.

Zip up hoodies are a heavy quality and sizes run large. Hoodie sizes are unisex.

Please email your order (quantity of each and size) to Linda Blanco at lblanco@jjc.edu prior to August 15. When I am sure we have a big enough order, I will let you know where to send the check made out to IMACC (and if a shipping fee will apply.) Polos are $45 each, hoodies $40.

I will place the order on *August 15*, so please do not delay!

We will not be taking orders again until next year.

ILLINOIS MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION of COMMUNITY COLLEGES

IMACC Individual Membership Form 2017 - 2018

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 Natalie McGathey
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
2017 – 2018*

INVOICE 201718 **AMOUNT DUE: $350.00**

(IMACC Tax I.D. #: 371127733) ENTER AMOUNT:_____

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____ TITLE: _____

Make check payable to IMACC
c/o Natalie McGathey
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, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018. Annual dues must be paid by March 1, 2018 in order to receive the complimentary conference registration for the institutional representative.

IMACC Leadership 2017-2018

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Roberta Christie, Shawnee Community College
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Jeremy McClure, Heartland Community College
David Miller, Black Hawk Community College
Briana Mills, Black Hawk Community College
Dawn Peterson, Illinois Central College
Tom Pulver, Waubonsee Community College
Fred Siegeltuch, City of Chicago Community College
Tina Swiniarske, Triton College
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Kathleen LaBeau, Harper Community College
Christian J. Roldan-Johnson, College of Lake County
Patrick Sugrue, Rock Valley College
Deanna Welsch, Illinois Central College

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Kenneth Beynon, Elgin Community College
Diane Koenig, Rock Valley College
Tony Paris, Sandburg

Nominations/Elections

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Steve Kifowit, Prairie State College

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