50th Annual IMACC Conference Schedule & Program

April 3 - April 5, 2025

Thursday, April 3

2:00 - 4:00 PM	**Board Meeting** - current board members only	**Pine Room**
6:00 PM - ???	Check-in, pick up folders, social time, light refreshments **Customize your drinking vessel** (for Thursday night participants)	**Gallery** **Oak Room**

Friday, April 4

7:00 - 8:00 AM	**Breakfast**	**Dining Rm**
8:05 - 8:25 AM	**Welcome and announcements**	**Library**
8:25 - 9:25 AM	**Keynote Session**	**Library**

"Teaching as Performing: Acting Lessons for Math Teachers"
Robert Cappetta, Florida SouthWestern State College
Keeping students engaged during mathematics lectures is becoming increasingly difficult. Actors in the theatre face a similar challenge in capturing and holding an audience's attention. Fortunately, many techniques used in acting can also benefit educators. This presentation will explore strategies to create a more engaging and dynamic learning environment for both teachers and students. **G**

Keynote Speaker Biographies:

Robert (Bob) Cappetta spent over 30 years teaching in Chicago with over 20 years at College of DuPage. He is an IMACC past president and currently serves as the Math Intensive Academic Network chair for AMATYC. He has been performing since the 1970s but has recently begun studying acting more seriously. In March he concluded the run of Death of a Salesman after 20 sold out performances in beautiful Naples, Florida.

Patrick Wilcher has been a mathematics instructor at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College for 19 years. During that time he also served as the assistant men's basketball coach. He was awarded as a Practitioner of Distinction by the University of Mississippi in 2018 and named MCTM College Teacher of the Year in 2019. Patrick teaches College Algebra, Statistics, Linear Algebra and the Calculus series.

9:40 - 10:40 AM	**Concurrent Sessions #1**	
	"Making DERA Work for Your College" **Kathleen Almy,** Almy Education While all Illinois community colleges have been working on the Developmental Education Reform Act's requirements for developmental education, most colleges are not at scale with the changes. The state is emphasizing compliance, supporting Black students, and reducing developmental math offerings including for STEM-bound students. This session will feature best practices from Illinois colleges who have gotten to scale in a way that works for their students, faculty, and staff. **CR, D**	**Library**
	"Two active learning activities for Calc II and Calc III" **Michael Caparula**, Kankakee Community College (Retired) We will do two activities in Calculus. The first is to learn strategies on deciding a convergence test in Infinite Series. The second is a matching activity for the process of Lagrange Multipliers. **MI, IT**	**Oak Room**
	"AI Chatbots in the College Classroom: Implementation Strategies and Development Options" **Yelda Aydin-Mullen and Cyrus Vandrevala**, Harper College This presentation explores the growing role of AI chatbots in college education through two complementary perspectives. Drawing from direct implementation experience, the first half examines existing AI teaching assistants and their integration with Open Educational Resources (OER) initiatives. The second half provides a practical roadmap for educators interested in developing custom AI chatbots. **IT, G**	**Pine Room**
	"Advancing Under-placed Students in Prealgebra" **Abby Bailey**, Elgin Community College ECC's Math Department used interventions and a proficiency test prior to and during the first week of the semester to see if students under-placed themselves into Prealgebra. In this presentation you'll see the interventions, collaborations, challenges, and successes from the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters. **D, PA**	**Butternut**
10:40 - 11:00 AM	**Coffee Break, Publisher Tables**	**Solarium**

Program Codes:

CR = Curriculum Redesign	**D** = Developmental Math
G = General Interest	**H** = History
IT = Instructional Technology	**MI** = Math Intensive
PA = Placement & Assessment	**ST** = Statistics

11:00 - 12:00 PM	**Concurrent Sessions #2**	
	"Statistics Tools and Projects" **Chris Benshoof and Jeremy Chamberlain,** Harper College We will demonstrate the use of a free website Stapplet for statistical analysis and in-class activities. We will review projects that students complete involving the comparison of two distributions and show how the students use Stapplet for their project write-up. Projects include comparing 2 businesses for a Business Statistics class and comparing distributions such as sports or science for an entry-level statistics course. **ST, IT**	**Butternut**
	"Models for Infinite Series" **Peter Keep**, Moraine Valley Community College Teaching infinite series and convergence testing is an area rich in wonderful mathematical concepts, as well as interesting metaphors and visuals. This session will introduce some hopefully unfamiliar models of infinite series to demonstrate some of the more familiar results from a standard calculus course. **MI**	**Library**
	"An update on legislation affecting SURS participants" **Diane Koenig**, Rock Valley College (retired) Whether you are retiring in 30 years or this year, this session will bring you up to date on current legislation concerning Tier II and Tier I SURS participants. **G**	**Oak Room**
	"Calculus, Excel and What's New with ALEKS! " **Justin McCord and Peggy Jenders**, McGraw Hill Come learn from your dedicated Illinois ALEKS Team Justin McCord ALEKS Specialist and Peggy Jenders ALEKS Implementation Manager about our new Calculus product, how we are integrating Excel into ALEKS and other new features. Attendees will be entered into a drawing to receive a gift card of your choosing. **IT, G**	**Basement**
	"College Algebra and Making STEM Pathways Accessible" **Connie McLean and Chris Appuhn,** Black Hawk College We will discuss the process of setting up a corequisite college algebra course and changes we have made since the initial pilot in 22/23. We will present data-based retention and success rates. We will also look at students who moved into the STEM pathway after completing our corequisite College Algebra course. **CR, MI**	**Pine Room**
12:00 - 1:00 PM	**Lunch**	**Dining Rm**
1:00 - 1:15 PM	**50th anniversary photo –** Please be a part of our history	**Koi Pond**

1:15 - 2:15 PM	**General Session**	**Library**
	"History of IMACC and Allerton" **Derek Peterson**, Allerton Park, Executive Director **Rodger Hergert,** IMACC Historian Since 1975, IMACC has been holding annual conference at Allerton Park. Come learn about the shared history of both IMACC and Allerton. Special guest speakers to be included. **G**	
2:15 - 2:30 PM	**Coffee Break, Publisher Tables**	**Solarium**
2:30 - 3:30 PM	**Concurrent Sessions #3**	
	"Birds of a Feather: AI in the Classroom" **Omar Adawi**, Parkland College **John Gately**, William Rainey Harper College This session will offer the opportunity to discuss the use of Artificial Intelligence in teaching. **MI, IT**	**Pine Room**
	DERA Reforms: A Roundtable Discussion **Lisa Blaylock, Cara Mullen, et al**, William Rainey Harper College Four years have passed since the DERA (Developmental Education Reform Act) led community colleges to implement a variety of reforms, such as scaling corequisite courses; redesigning math pathways; changing placement measures; and other initiatives to improve students' chances of completing a credit-bearing math course by their second semester. Harper faculty will share what has worked at their institution, with a primary focus on corequisite courses. Please come and share what your school has done, along with any noticeable results. Those with questions are also encouraged to attend. **CR**, **D**	**Library**
	"Department Chair/Lead Faculty Roundtable" **Keven Hansen,** Southwestern Illinois College We will discuss the challenges currently facing community college math departments (and potential solutions). **G**	**Oak Room**
	"Should we continue teaching this?" **Matthew Lee**, Oakton College Do you have topics, where you find yourself asking why we are still teaching this? Are there topics that we should continue teaching even though the technology can easily handle the problem? Come discuss and share your passion for keeping, or cutting, your favorite, or least favorite, topics. **CR, G**	**Butternut**

3:30 - 4:30 PM	**Park Activities**, explore on your own or choose guided opportunities: **Formal Garden Tour** – traditional garden tour highlighting the brick wall garden, avenue of the formal gardens, triangle garden, down to the Sunken Garden and back **Easy Hike Tour** – Fu dog garden /orange trail (gorilla) and back – Orange trail is about 1 mile long.	**Lobby**
4:30 - 5:30 PM	**Social hour, committee meetings, time with publishers**	**Gallery**
5:40 - 6:50 PM	**Dinner and Awards**	**Dining Rm**
7:00 - 8:00 PM	**Keynote Session**	**Library**
	"Creating Photo Filters Using Algebra" **Patrick Wilcher,** Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Students now use photo filters daily. We will look at the mathematics behind photo filters and help students connect math with their daily lives. **MI**	
8:00 PM - ????	**Evening Games and Activities**	**Everywhere**

Saturday, April 5

7:00 - 8:20 AM	**Breakfast**	**Dining Rm**
7:00 - 8:20 AM	Board Meeting (Board members only)	**Sun Porch**
8:30 - 9:20 AM	**IMACC Business Meeting (All encouraged to attend)**	**Library**
9:20 - 10:20 AM	**Keynote Session**	**Library**
	"Building Sports Ranking Systems Using Linear Algebra and Systems of Equations" **Patrick Wilcher,** Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College With the college football playoffs expanding to 12 teams, sports rankings has never been a hotter topic. We will look at the mathematics involved in creating a sports ranking system using system of equations and linear algebra. **MI**	
10:20 - 10:40 AM	**Coffee Break, Publisher Tables**	**Solarium**

10:40 - 11:40 AM	**Concurrent Session #4**	
	"Examining Familiar Concepts Through a Complex-Number Lens" **Chris Appuhn,** Black Hawk College Complex numbers are fascinating! By reimagining the two-dimensional coordinate plane as the complex plane, we find intriguing ways to explore concepts from analytic geometry. Complex numbers also provide alternative--and often simpler--pathways to complete tasks in precalculus and calculus courses. Ideas from this session can be useful for supplemental content, honors projects, independent study, and personal enjoyment. **MI**	**Butternut**
	"Using Artificial Intelligence to Improve Teaching and Learning in College Mathematics" **Robert Cappetta**, Florida SouthWestern State College Mathematics teachers have been navigating different forms of artificial intelligence for years. Tools like calculators, Mathematica, and PhotoMath have been helping students find solutions long before large language models became widely available. However, these new AI tools bring even bigger challenges—along with exciting opportunities! In this presentation, we'll explore how to use these technologies to enhance teaching and learning in college mathematics. **MI**	**Library**
	"MyOpenMath Question Writing Workshop" **America Masaros,** Harper College In this session, we will work through writing a first question in MyOpenMath, a free online math homework tool. This session is intended for someone who has taught with MyOpenMath in the past, although beginners are welcome. Bring your laptop, and a paper assignment you would like to convert to use with MOM. To get the most out of the session, you should have an existing instructor account. **IT, OER**	**Pine Room**
	"Some Crazy (and Not-So-Crazy) Things We Taught 50 Years Ago" **Jim Trefzger,** Parkland College (retired) From computing with slide rules and log tables to the demise of the 5 credit hour Analytic Geometry course, there really have been some interesting changes in two-year college mathematics since IMACC was founded! Included are some "lost gems" that can still be used today. **G, H**	**Oak Room**
11:40 - 12:00 PM	**Closing remarks, drawing for raffle prizes**	**Library**
12:00 - 1:00 PM	**Lunch**	**Dining Rm**

Thank you for joining us! Have a safe trip home. See you next year.