

News from the South C's

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Spring 2012

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Upcoming Events:

- CMC³-South Annual Spring Conference, March 2-3, 2012, Anaheim, CA.
- CMC³ 16th Annual Spring Recreational Math Conference, April 27-28, 2012 Lake Tahoe, NV.
- AMATYC Annual Conference, November 8-11, 2012, Jacksonville, FL.

From the President's Desk

A Happy New Year to All CMC³-South Members!

I hope you had a lovely winter break and that you are excited about starting 2012. For winter break, I traveled to Cancun where the guide at Chichen Itza assured the tourists that while the Mayans did take a rather serious attitude to sport, they did not predict the end of the world in 2012. The tour guide explained that during the year 2012, the Mayan calendar would end one of its lengthy cycles – a cycle lasting 1,872,000 days (5,200 ' 360 day cycles) – and then begin another cycle. With the start of 2012, we community college teachers of mathematics begin a new cycle – a new cycle of students, semesters, and ideas.

While you plan your new semester, we – the CMC³—South Board Members – hope you will include participation in the CMC³—South Annual Conference March 2nd and 3rd at the Double Tree in Anaheim. The conference will host a range of speakers. Among our speakers Jim Gaston, Associate Director of Information Technology for the South Orange County Community College District has agreed to deliver a keynote presentation on the evolution of technology.

Please visit the CMC³—South website (www.cmc3s.org) regularly for updates on speakers, activities and exhibitor information. If you are interested in speaking this year or next, please submit your speaker proposal to Sherri Wilson of Crafton Hills College, the CMC³—South Vice President and Speaker Chair, through our website at http://www.cmc3s.org/Spring_Call4Speakers.shtml. If you are interested in presiding for one of the speakers, please submit your information through our website to Maribel Lopez of Santa Monica College, the Presider chair at http://www.cmc3s.org/Spring_Call4Presiders.shtml. Those interested in exhibitor space or advertising should contact Tammi Marshall of Cuyamaca College, the Exhibitor Chair at http://www.cmc3s.org/Spring_Exhibitor_Info.shtml.

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From the President's Desk continued:

I hope to see you in March!

Patty George
Department of Mathematics
Cerritos College

Job Listings

Current listing for full-time mathematics positions with closing date. These are the local positions listed on the CCC Job Registry

| <u>College/District</u> | <u>Closing Date</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE | 2/6 |
| ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE | UNTIL FILLED |
| CERRITOS COLLEGE | 2/13 |
| CITRUS COLLEGE | 1/18 |
| COAST CCD | 2/13 |
| CYPRESS COLLEGE | 2/13 |
| EL CAMINO COLLEGE | 1/10 |
| FULLERTON COLLEGE | 2/13 |
| SADDLEBACK COLLEGE | 2/10 |
| VENTURA CCD | 2/21 |

Link for more information and updates:

<https://www.ccregistry.org/jobs/searchForm.aspx>

Spring Conference!!!

CMC³-South
Twenty-Seventh Annual Conference
March 2-3, 2012
Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/OC, March 2-3,
2012

The conference will include a Friday evening social and keynote presentation, followed by a game night hosted by Pearson Publishing.

Saturday breakout sessions will include a spectrum of topics of interest to community college mathematics instructors, including student success, math and literacy, mathematics instruction and STEM information.

The lunch Key-Note Speaker is Jim Gaston, Associate Director of Information Technology for the South Orange County Community College District has agreed to deliver a presentation on the evolution of technology.

For more information including the registration form please follow the link:

www.cmc3s.org/conferences.shtml

A Missing Part of the Equation

by Dr. Robert Smazenka from Los Angeles Mission College

At our graduation ceremony last year, I and members of my department guessed, as we usually do, at the number of students graduating with degrees in mathematics. We usually have from three to five but this time we had eight. While this was a pleasing surprise, the total number of degrees in all the sciences was dwarfed by the well over 200 graduates in the social sciences, interdisciplinary studies and other nontechnical fields. Having observed similar ratios for years I did not give it much thought.

Later that summer I read an exceptionally well researched and documented book, *Basta de historia! La obsesion latinoamericana con el pasado y las doce claves del futuro*, by Andres Oppenheimer, Vintage Press Espanol. Dr. Oppenheimer focuses on improving education as a necessary means of spurring development in Latin America based on the “knowledge economy” of the 21st century. In his introduction he sites data in support his concern that many of the best universities in Latin America confer far too few scientific and technical degrees compared to others, and that this impacts development and participation in the economy of the 21st century. As an example, Dr. Oppenheimer’s native Argentina graduates 4600 psychologists and awards 146 baccalaureate degrees in the sciences annually nationwide.

Many of the problems Dr. Oppenheimer sites in his book, lack of investment in education, poorly qualified faculty, and lack of access to technology, do not exist in the US to the extent they do in other countries. So why did we graduate only eight Math majors? We as educators are continually improving our curriculum, updating our pedagogy, and developing “best practices” for the classroom but we are missing a large and perhaps the most important part of the equation. We need to emphasize as a society the importance of science and technology that creates respect and admiration for those who work in these fields. We used to do this.

Growing up in the 50’s and 60’s the emphasis on science was evident everywhere, from the “space race” to Felix the Cat and Poindexter cartoons on TV. Compare this with President George W. Bush’s smirking response that “... I wasn’t very good at math...” when confronted with a question involving percentages.

In his book Dr. Oppenheimer describes a program in Brasil, “Todos Por La Educacion” (everyone for education). While the emphasis and goals of the program addresses k-12 education, it is the scope and structure that we may learn from. Recognizing the need to change the cultural perspective on education, a group of 70 large companies funded the project which was later adopted under a different name by the Brazilian government. A key element was a nationwide media campaign to establish a respect for, and the importance of education. One thing we certainly do well in the US is using media to sell something. Maybe we should be selling society more science and math and fewer video games?

Greetings from AMATYC West Vice President, Bruce Yoshiwara

AMATYC is the only professional organization whose goal is the improvement of mathematics education in two-year colleges in the United States and Canada. If you are already a member, then you know of the many activities and resources that membership provides, such as free webinars, Traveling Workshops, Institutes, and networking through the various committees that discuss issues such as assessment, dual enrollment, placement and teacher prep. If you are not member, I invite you to join AMATYC to take advantage of these opportunities and to support the national professional organization designed for two-year college math faculty.

AMATYC's annual conference is its best known single activity. If you attended the 37th Annual Conference in Austin in November, you experienced the energy and excitement of joining hundreds of colleagues all eager to share ideas and expertise. You probably learned that AMATYC updated its Strategic Plan and is now considering a position statement on Proctored Testing and another position statement on Academic Assessment of Mathematics Programs. Watch the AMATYC website (www.amatyc.org) for further information. If you are interested in presenting or presiding at the 38th Annual AMATYC conference in Jacksonville, FL, November 8 – 11, 2012, please be sure to apply on the website by February 1.

And mark your calendars for the 38th Annual AMATYC conference in Anaheim October 31 – November 3, 2013. The local events coordinator is Carol Murphy (San Diego Miramar College), who will be assisted by the Anaheim conference local arrangement committee: Miriam Castroconde (Irvine Valley College), Bob Crise (Crafton Hills College), Patty George (Cerritos College), Mark Greenhalgh (Fullerton College), Hoat Lee (San Diego City College), Tammi Marshall (Cuyamaca College), Art Nitta (San Antonio College), Sally Van den Berg (Barstow College), Sherri Wilson (Crafton Hills College), and Rich Zucker (Irvine Valley College). One of AMATYC's proudest projects is ACCESS (Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, and Service), a mentoring and professional development initiative for two-year college mathematics faculty. The project's goal is to provide experiences that will help new faculty become more effective teachers and active members of the broader mathematical community. Applications for Cohort 9 for 2012-2013 will be accepted in spring of 2012.

Check www.amatyc.org in February for more details.

For the Students of CMC3-South

Bob Crise, Crafton Hills College

If you would like to bring students to the 27th Annual CMC³-South Spring conference, March 2 & 3, 2012, CMC³-South has ten student waivers (two per college) available to the first ten students who apply by filling out the application below or emailing Bob Crise at rcrise@craftonhills.edu. Colleges may bring more than two students to the conference, but the students will be required to pay \$45.00 to cover the cost of lunch on the fourth of March. Please respond by February 24, 2012.

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| CMC3-South's Student Registration Waiver for the Twenty Third Annual Conference (Please print all information legibly!) | |
| Student's Name | |
| Student's College | Name of the math instructor responsible for the student at the conference: |
| | Math instructor's email address: |
| Please return this form to: Robert D. Crise, Jr. Professor of Mathematics Crafton Hills College 11711 Sand Canyon Road Yucaipa, CA 92399-1799 | |

Bring your students to the Conference!!!

Local College Spotlight



Los Angeles Valley College

By Ms. Sheri Berger

Los Angeles Valley College (LAVC), founded in 1949, is located in the heart of Los Angeles's San Fernando Valley. The college is one of nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District with a mission to offer transfer education, job training and lifelong learning to residents of the San Fernando Valley and beyond. The picturesque campus sits on 105-acres in the Los Angeles suburb of Valley Glen, which is near the 405, 101 and 170 freeways. LAVC is a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI), and serves approximately 20,000 students. The campus is currently undergoing a \$626 million expansion and renovation project funded by bonds supported by the voters of Los Angeles.

The Mathematics Department resides in the Math Science Building which until 2008 was shared with the Earth Science and Child Development Departments. As part of the recent bond renovations and with the construction of other new buildings, the department now occupies the entire building. This has allowed us to double the department's dedicated classroom space and create a large shared office space for our adjunct instructors.

Since the 1980s, the department has seen a rise in the number of classes in basic skills mathematics taught by the department. The department has made a considerable effort to improve retention and success of students in math classes. The Math Lab, created in Spring 1996, has been an integral part of the department since it was established and serves over 1,000 students per semester.

The department has received three U.S. Department of Education grants: one to increase success of minority students using technology, one to bridge the achievement gap, and most recently, a STEM grant to accelerate the pathway through mathematics and increase transfer in STEM fields. This new development grant, which is an award of \$4.35 million over five years, is focused on increasing the number of Hispanic and other low-income students attaining degrees in math-related subjects. The grant will allow the department to redesign the curriculum in ways to decrease student time in the mathematics pipeline and incorporate more technology by creating two new computer classrooms. In addition, a summer bridge is planned to allow students to reassess after a two-week intensive review. The department is also participating in the Basic Skills Initiative and other campus STEM grant projects.

The Ed. Code (section 87486) Sanctions the Hiring of Readers for Math & English Faculty.
by Rod Elsdon from Chaffey College

In a nutshell, the Ed Code sanctions and encourages community colleges to hire "Readers" specifically for Math & English instructors that are to assist the instructors in the "careful marking and analysis of the students' work." The purpose or intent is to improve the "quality of student writing and mathematics abilities through more frequent assignments...."

Our state legislators realize that improving our students' mathematical abilities requires frequent practice and that our students need feedback on their work. The amount of grading and "careful analysis" of the students' work can be overwhelming for the instructor. I personally had over 6000 individual papers to grade in the fall semester and this did not include exams.

We should bring this section of the Ed Code to the attention of administrators who always complain about low success rates in mathematics courses. The Ed Code has a "recipe" for improving our students' mathematical abilities and it is to hire assistants to help us carefully read and analyze our students' papers.

See CA Education Code below

CA ED CODE

87486. The governing board of any community college district may employ or engage as an independent contractor a suitably skilled person to serve as limited-term or part-time reader assistant in connection with instruction in composition and writing, and in mathematics, to faculty. Any person employed as a reader shall not be deemed to be employed in a faculty position, and, unless otherwise determined by the governing board, shall not be subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 88000) of Part 51 of this division. The governing board may pay hourly or unit compensation rates as it deems proper for the services rendered. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section not to authorize an increase in the number of students who may be assigned to any class, but to provide an opportunity for improvement in the quality of student writing and mathematics abilities through more frequent assignments of compositions and more work in mathematics made possible by the employment of suitably trained persons to assist the instructor in the careful marking and analysis of the students' work. Furthermore, the means adopted for employing persons as reader assistants is not intended as an encroachment upon the merit system of public employment, but is adopted as the most practical arrangement, since most work of such nature will be done as part-time work and in the home.

CMC³-South Board and Conference Committee Members

Beginning March 5, 2011

- **President:** Patty George, Cerritos College
- **President Elect:** Sherri Wilson, Crafton Hills College
- **Past President:** Carol Murphy, San Diego Miramar College
- **Secretary:** Miriam Castroconde, Irvine Valley College
- **Treasurer / Registration:** Mark Greenhalgh, Fullerton College
- **Member at Large, North Region:** Debby Wong, Los Angeles Mission College
- **Member at Large, Central Region:** Eduardo Arismendi-Pardi, Orange Coast College
- **Member at Large, South Region:** Sally VanDenBerg, Barstow College
- **AMATYC & MAA Representative:** Bruce Yoshiwara, Los Angeles Pierce College
- **CMC Representative:** Patty George, Cerritos College
- **Newsletter Editor:** Paul Swatzel, Citrus College
- **Student Liaison:** Bob Crise, Crafton Hills College
- **Fall Mini Conference Chair:** Hoat Le, San Diego City College
- **Spring Conference Site Chair:** Art Nitta, Mt. San Antonio College
- **Spring Conference Exhibitors Chair:** Tammi Marshall, Cuyamaca College
- **Spring Conference Presiders Chair:** Maribel Lopez, Santa Monica College
- **Membership Chair:** Hoat Le, San Diego City College
- **Contacts Coordinator:** Rod Elsdon, Chaffey College
- **Webmaster:** Richard Zucker, Irvine Valley College