

News from the South C's

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Upcoming Events

- Feb. 29-Mar. 1, 2008, CMC³-South 23rd Annual Conference, Anaheim, CA.
- June 6-7, 2008 in Colorado Springs, CO or July 10-11, 2008 in San Diego, CA, Improving the Way We Teach Mathematics: Beyond Crossroads Summer Workshops.
- October 2008(exact date TBA), CMC³-South Fall Mini-Conference, Santa Monica College, Santa Monica, CA.
- Nov. 20-23, 2008, 34th AMATYC Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

From the President's Desk

From the President's Desk:

I recently realized that at this time last year I missed an opportunity to acknowledge the 300th birthday of one of the greatest mathematicians of all time, Leonhard Euler. Euler was born on April 15, 1707, which will make him 301 come next tax day. Of all the great mathematicians in history, Euler captured my imagination more than any other. I will never forget my first encounter with Euler's Identity, $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$. I felt that my understanding of mathematics had given me a privileged perspective. It seemed that I had glimpsed a divine order of things. Thank you, Professor Euler.

But I am not here to rhapsodize or wax poetic. Actually, I mentioned Leonhard Euler in order to segue to another Leonhard whom you will meet on March 1st at the 23rd Annual Conference. The Leonhard in question is Dr. Bill Leonard, Professor Emeritus from CSU Fullerton. You may know Bill. He's been on the speaker circuit for many years, and he has authored and co-authored scores of expository and scholarly articles on mathematics. Smart, sure. And funny. You won't want to miss his luncheon talk entitled, "23...It's a Remarkable Number!" Bill has had a lifelong relationship with the number 23 (it's true), and he is our 23rd keynote speaker. Imagine that!

Goodbye, dear friends. As of midday on March 1, 2008, I will become your past-president, a not altogether unwanted transition. While I have enjoyed this two-year stint, it's time for Carol Murphy of Miramar College to rise in the ranks. Carol has been doing a wonderful job as your conference program chair and president-elect for the last two years, and she is eagerly waiting in the wings for me to exit stage left. As for me, I'm looking forward to more time to practice the piano. I've discovered that music is math for the soul.

Sincerely,

Richard Zucker
Irvine Valley College

The Basic Skills Initiative Spring 2008

Patty George
Cerritos College

As a response to the goal of the California Community Colleges System Strategic Plan to “ensure that basic skills development is a major focus and adequately funded activity of the Community Colleges,” California community colleges have been participating in research and planning prompted by the Basic Skills Initiative.

To guide the Basic Skills Initiative, associates from the Center for Student Success, conducted a comprehensive literature review of basic skills issues and from this literature review, prepared a document summarizing 26 effective practices. These effective practices were organized into four major categories: organizational and administrative practices, program components, staff development, and instructional practices.

After preparing the literature review, it was given to representatives at every California community college. Regional meetings were then held between August and October of 2007. At the regional meetings, representatives from the colleges discussed the content of the literature review and were motivated to organize and implement these effective practices at each institution. In order for colleges to be eligible for state funds targeted at basic skills needs, the colleges are required to complete an assessment tool prepared by the Basic Skills Initiative Steering Committee.

Colleges are now in the process of completing the self assessment tool. This involves developing basic skills teams on campus and assessing the degree to which the 26 effective practices exist or may be further developed at the college. By May 2008, all colleges are expected to have completed this assessment and have submitted action plans based on this assessment.

To assist colleges in the assessment and implementation of effective practices, colleges can access information online at www.cccbsi.org, or contact members of the steering committee. Steering committee members are listed at www.cccbsi.org/steering-committee. For more information about the Strategic Plan, go to <http://strategicplan.cccco.edu/>.

Here's What's Up at Our Campus
Yolanda James

Since we are such a large and diverse collection of community colleges, I thought you'd like to hear what's going on at the other campuses in our area. So I asked the representatives of colleges in my area (southernmost) to send me an update about their math departments. Here's what they sent:

Minnie Allison reported that **Cypress College** has completed almost of their math course Student Learning Outcomes, and that their own math Professor David Petrie was honored as the 2007-08 Orange County College Teacher of the Year – congratulations to you!

Mark Greenhalgh said that **Fullerton College** is also working hard on the SLOs and on creating assessments as they go. Their response to the state's Basic Skills Initiative includes workshops on student learning styles, training programs for adjuncts, and a tutoring lab especially for arithmetic and pre-algebra students. They will also be hiring this Spring to replace four full-time instructors who retired last year (go to http://www.nocccd.edu/employment/documents/FC_Math.pdf). They will be busy!

According to Mardjan Shokoufi, **Imperial Valley College** is also working on the BSI, and looking into hiring full-time certificated person for their Math Lab. They will add a technology unit to their now-4-unit Statistics courses, and incorporate the computer science courses into the math department. And in the Spring they will begin offering 4 online classes in math.

Mimi Rasky reported that math department at **Southwestern College** has grown again, now has 22 full-timers. Many instructors are using an inter-active approach, using MathXL for their pre-algebra and algebra courses with a lot of enthusiasm and success! The department is also encouraging high school students to advance quickly, by offering more geometry and pre-calculus courses during the summer. And they have recently implemented a major change in their Intermediate Algebra program – from one 5-unit course (Math 65) to two 4-unit courses (Math 60 and 70). Students who plan on taking pre-calculus, etc, will be required to take both semesters, while those who plan on majors requiring less math will need to take only Math 60. If it works, maybe the rest of us can consider it too!

These are only four of the colleges in our vast area, and their news and enthusiasm is exciting to read about. Contact me about your campus (yjames@sdccd.edu), and I'll be happy to post it in future "What's Up" articles. We can all appreciate each other's successes, and maybe get some great ideas to use in our departments!

For the Students of CMC³-South
Bob Crise, Crafton Hills College

If you would like to bring students to CMC³-South Twenty Third Annual Spring conference, February 29-March 01, 2008, 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 first of March.

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:

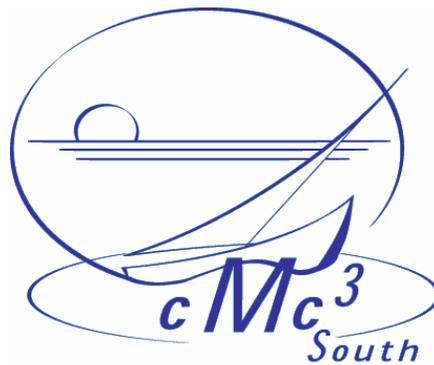
Math instructor's email address:

Please return this form to:
Robert D. Crise, Jr.
Associate Professor of Mathematics
Crafton Hills College
11711 Sand Canyon Road
Yucaipa, CA 92399-1799

It's conference time again!!

California Mathematics Council Community Colleges South

www.cmc3s.org



Twenty-third Annual Conference

Friday Entertainment

John Hornsby

Author

*“Math Class Goes to Hollywood via
Anaheim”*

Saturday Luncheon

Dr. Bill Leonard

Professor Emeritus, CSU Fullerton

“23 ...It’s a Remarkable Number”

February 29 – March 1, 2008

Doubletree Hotel

Anaheim/Orange County

Conference Breakout Sessions

General Interest

The Student Math League Competition
Steve Blasberg, West Valley College

Cyber Pickpockets! Is the Personal Information You Supply over the Internet Really Safe?
Dr. Scott Annin, CSU Fullerton

Can We Develop Statewide Math Placement Tests for California Community Colleges?
Mark Samuels, Southwestern College

Teaching Math with Story Telling
Anne Hauscarriague, Santiago Canyon College

Effective Placement and Assessment in One Integrated Product for College Algebra through Calculus
Alison Ahlgren, University of Illinois

Student Success

The Seven Characteristics of a Successful Student: A Student's Viewpoint
John Tobey, North Shore Community College

Strategies for Success: Integrating Effective Study Skills into Developmental Mathematics
Lynn Marecek, Santa Ana College

Ten Exciting Assignments Designed to Improve Student Success
Stephanie Logan & George Woodbury, College of the Sequoias

Not Just Group Work, TEAM Work
Sue Bickford, Arturo Martinez, Trudy Meyer, Eduardo Moralez, Jacquelyn Sims,
El Camino College

Technology

Automated Math Journals Using Maple
P.M. Velez, Professor Emeritus, Los Angeles City College

Lies My Graphing Calculator Told Me
Ron Larson, Pennsylvania State University

Tablet PC: The Ultimate Tool for Teaching, Learning and Communicating Mathematics
Fred Feldon, Coastline Community College

Statistics

Statistics: More Fun Than You May Think
Francois Bereaud, San Diego Miramar College
Mario Martinez, Santa Monica, Cerritos, and Los Angeles Trade and Technical Colleges

Statistics with Power Using SPSS
Steve Davies, LA Valley College and CSULA
Evy Davies, CA State Los Angeles College

Algebra

Foil: Sound Pedagogy or Just a Good Cooking Aid?
Bob Prior, Riverside Community College, Norco

Save Time, Increase Understanding, Learning and Make Algebra Exciting!
Elayn Martin-Gay, University of New Orleans

Practical Intermediate Algebra – A Response to the New A. S. Requirement
Scott Guth, Mt. San Antonio College

Teacher Preparation

Links to Literacy: Using Children's Books to Promote Literacy and Numeracy
MaryAnne Anthony, Santa Ana College

Trig and above

A Fresh Look at Teaching Trigonometry
Kathy and Bruce Yoshiwara, Pierce College

Helping Students Fight Algebra Fatigue in College Algebra and Precalculus
Reva Narsimhan, Kean College

Roots, Ratios and Ramanujan
Jon McCammond, UC Santa Barbara

**CMC³-South Twenty-third Annual Conference
February 29 – March 1, 2008**

Event Location:

All events will be held at the Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County, California. The Doubletree is located at 100 The City Dr., Orange, CA 92868. Directions to the hotel are located at the bottom of the page.

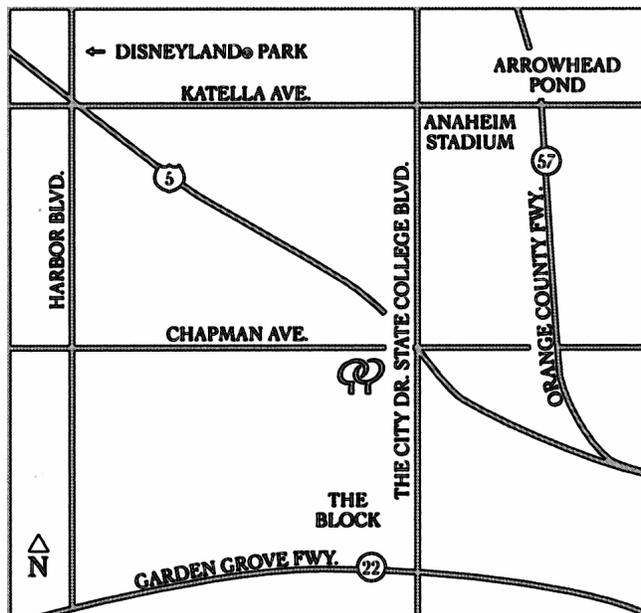
Lodging:

Room reservations can be obtained directly from the hotel at 714-634-4500 or by using the web page <http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/SNACCDT-CA8-20080228/index.jhtml>. A block of rooms has been set aside for this event at the guaranteed conference room rate is \$108+10.1% tax for single or double occupancy. The deadline to receive this special rate is January 29. Be sure to mention **California Mathematics Council Community Colleges South** when you make your room reservations.

Registration Information:

Advance registration is recommended. It facilitates the planning of the conference and ensures that your materials and meals will be ready for you on the day of the conference. **Late or on-site registration is more expensive and does not guarantee you a plate at the luncheon.** Make copies of the registration form if necessary. The registration form can be found elsewhere in this brochure.

Directions:



From Highway 5 going south -

Exit the City Drive, go right on Chapman, left on Manchester, follow signs.

From Highway 5 going north -

Exit Chapman Avenue and go left, pass the City Dr., left on Manchester, follow signs.

From 22 going east -

Exit the City Drive and go left on Chapman, left on Manchester, follow signs.

From 57 north or south -

Exit second Chapman Avenue in Orange, go west on Chapman, left on Manchester, follow signs.

Doubletree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County
100 The City Drive
Orange, CA 92868
Tel: (714) 634-4500 7 AM-7 PM
Fax: (714) 978-2370
1-800-222-TREE

Please visit www.cmc3s.org for up-to-date information about the conference.

**CMC³-South Twenty-third Annual Conference
February 29 – March 1, 2008
Doubletree Hotel – Anaheim/Orange County**

Advance registration postmarked by February 20, 2008

Please use a separate form for each registrant. Copy this form freely.

Last: _____ First: _____ M.I. _____

College/Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Preferred Phone (_____) _____ work home cell

Email: _____

The Friday evening reception/entertainment is free.

Saturday Conference:

- Registration and Membership:

If you are attending the conference annual membership dues are included in registration.

Advance Registration, postmarked no later than Feb. 20, 2008: \$90 _____
(No refunds after February 20, 2008)

Lunch included: Vegetarian _____ Non-Vegetarian _____

Late/on-site registration (lunch only if available): \$120 _____

If you are NOT attending the conference annual membership dues are \$20 _____

I wish to make a tax deductible contribution to CMC3-South: \$ _____

- Total amount included: \$ _____

- Make check payable to CMC³-South

- Return Advance Registration to: Mark Greenhalgh (mgreenhalgh@fullcoll.edu)
Fullerton College
321 E. Chapman Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92832

Pre-Conference Workshops

Thinkwell

Friday, February 29, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Mark Schnug, VP Sales & Marketing for Thinkwell will demo Thinkwell math titles. Thinkwell replaces a traditional textbook with engaging videos and multimedia that appeal to a variety of learning styles. Learn how to bridge the technology gap between students and professors. Win a free iPod Nano to be given away at the presentation.

“How to Motivate Students to Learn by Using Software”

Malibu Room (Doubletree Hotel, First Floor)

Friday, February 29, 5:15 pm – 6:15 pm

Discover the benefits of using interactive software in teaching and learning mathematics. Hawkes Learning Systems promotes grade improvement and motivates students to learn by providing tutorials, unlimited practice, helpful feedback provided by artificial intelligence, and mastery-based homework. Come see a demonstration of our state-of-the-art test generator, online gradebook and student courseware! Everyone who attends will be entered to **WIN A LAPTOP COMPUTER** which will be raffled at the end of the presentation!

Our website is www.hawkeslearning.com. For additional information regarding our exhibit or presentation, click on “visit us at a conference” on the menu at the left. Attendees will not need to register to attend...just show up to the presentation! For additional questions, call us at 1-800-426-9538 or e-mail Brittany Walker (bwalker@hawkeslearning.com) or Beth Firebaugh (bfirebaugh@hawkeslearning.com).

Improving the Way We Teach Mathematics: Beyond Crossroads Summer Workshops

June 6–7, 2008 in Colorado
Springs, CO

July 10–11, 2008 in San Diego,
CA



This summer, the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC) is organizing two workshops to help faculty, departments, and schools improve mathematics instruction and learning. One of the workshops will be held July 10–11 at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, hosted by CMC³-South.

AMATYC's standards document, *Beyond Crossroads* (see www.beyondcrossroads.com/) gives standards for implementing change to improve the way mathematics is taught at two-year colleges. The attendees of these *Beyond Crossroads* workshops will use the *Beyond Crossroads* Implementation Cycle to develop, assess, and improve projects of their choice.

Each two-day workshop/conference will have multiple sessions to choose from. There will be common plenary sessions and concurrent break-out sessions and opportunities to work on specific projects and/or to focus on specific aspects of *Beyond Crossroads* standards and recommendations.

Goals for attendees:

- To grow as professionals and embrace change and continuous improvement in their classes.
- To implement the messages of *Beyond Crossroads* in order to develop effective strategies for courses, departments, faculty, and colleges.
- To learn assessment strategies at the class, course, and programs levels, including Scholarship of Teaching methodology.
- To create an "Implementation Plan" for a project of choice.

Apply online:

Go to www.amatyc.org for more information.

BITS AND BYTES

by Sister Rita M Basta, BVM

- Start your spring, 2008 semester by using the following one-stop information source www.CLRN.org . The CA Department of Education Project CLRN (CA Learning Resource Network) provides resources, web links, assessment help, and more for mathematics and other subject areas.
- If you want a fast update on what's hot in technology news, go to <http://coursecasts.course.com> There is even a special section for instructors.
- Buy math cartoon greeting cards for teachers at a low cost at: www.notinshame.com All profits support Juvenile Diabetes Research.
- Get the latest news about developments in math, applications and interesting careers at www.potw.co.za This site also offers math problems of the week for students at all grade levels.
- Did you even wonder about women in Math and Science? The National Academy of Sciences has created a site that features the accomplishments of contemporary women. Go to www.iwaswondering.org.
- A new software that enables you to easily create high-quality graphs can be reviewed at www.handygraph.com . There is a 30 day free trial period.
- Math models is COMAP's new modeling forum. It has a database to enrich classroom teaching for all age groups. A fascinating web site: www.mathmodels.org

BITS or BYTES are welcome for the next Newsletter. Please email: rita.basta@csun.edu

CMC³-SOUTH 2007-2008 BOARD MEMBERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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- **President Elect / Spring Conference Chair:** Carol Murphy, San Diego Miramar College
- **Past President:** Ignacio Alarcon, Santa Barbara City College
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- **Spring Conference Exhibitors Chair:** Tammi Marshall, Cuyamaca College
- **Spring Conference Presiders Chair:** Sherri Wilson, Crafton Hills College
- **Contacts Coordinator:** Rod Elsdon, Chaffey College
- **Webmaster:** Kim Tran, San Diego Mesa College



J. Paul Swatzel
Citrus College
Mathematics Department
1000 West Foothill Boulevard
Glendora, CA 91741-1899