



Fall 2016



In this Issue:

President's Message

Article on "Math Anxiety"

Bobby Cohen Memorial Scholarship Continues

Upcoming Math Conferences

Dates of Interest

October 7 & 8, 2016
FTYCMA Fall Retreat
State College of Florida
Bradenton, FL

November 17-20, 2016
42nd AMATYC Annual Conference
Denver, Colorado

FTYCMA Officers

President

Altay Özgener
State College of Florida
ozgenea@scf.edu

President-Elect

Sandra Seifert
FSW State College
sseifert@fsw.edu

Secretary

Nancy Johnson
State College of Florida
Johnson@scf.edu

Treasurer

Ryan Kasha
Valencia College
rkasha@valenciacollege.edu

Newsletter Editor

Sandra Seifert
FSW State College
sseifert@fsw.edu

VP Programs

Don Ransford
FSW State College
dransford@fsw.edu

Membership Services Coordinator

Dennis Runde
State College of Florida
runded@scf.edu

Past President

Ryan Kasha
Valencia College
rkasha@valenciacollege.edu

Web Master

Altay Özgener
State College of Florida
ozgenea@scf.edu

Historian

Rebecca Williams
State College of Florida
williar1@scf.edu

The President's Message

As the new president of FTYCMA, I would like to welcome you to our section's Newsletter and to our website on behalf of the Executive Board.

In 2004, I started as the webmaster of our organization, and made it to the presidency.

Our mission is:

1. to encourage the development of effective mathematics programs,
2. to afford a statewide forum for the sharing of ideas,
3. to further develop and improve the mathematics curricula,
4. to further mathematics-related experiences of students in two-year colleges, to promote the professional welfare and development of its members.

As an organization, we host an annual fall retreat usually in early October, and have an annual spring meeting with MAA Florida Section. Some of us also participate in MAA-FL Suncoast Region's December conferences.

Here are the future conferences of AMATYC:

November 17 - 20, 2016 Denver, CO
November 9 - 12, 2017 San Diego, CA
November 15 - 18, 2018 Orlando, FL

The most important one is the one in 2018. Please follow us on our section's Facebook page. Our Fall Retreat will be at the Bradenton Campus of State College of Florida on October 7-8, 2016. Donald Ransford of Florida SouthWestern State College will be the organizer.

I have found both AMATYC and FTYCMA to be worthwhile organizations that offer opportunities for professional development.

Increasing membership is one of our goals. Please contact Dennis Runde or go to Joining FTYCMA for more information for joining. If you are not a member, please consider this your personal invitation to become part of FTYCMA. I look forward to meeting you at our national conference this fall or at one of the many activities throughout the year.

Another goal is to form an archive to keep a record of our history, historical documents, and anecdotes. Please contact our historian Rebecca Williams.

Do not hesitate to contact me or any one of the officers if you have questions, comments, or concerns.

Wishing you a great year! On behalf of the officers and members of FTYCMA, welcome!

C. A. Özgener

President



Friend us on Facebook. www.facebook.com/FTYCMA

The Bobby Cohen Memorial Scholarship



The Bobby Cohen Memorial Scholarship has been extended to September 30, 2016. Sandy Cohen, Mathematics Professor at St. Petersburg College, has established the Bobby Cohen Memorial Scholarship in memory of her beloved husband, Bobby, who passed away in August 2015. This scholarship helps to facilitate the attendance of FTYCMA members to the annual Fall Retreat.

FTYCMA is a dynamic mathematics association representing the opinions of our mathematics colleagues across the state of Florida and collaborates with MAA and AMATYC to present our views to the legislature in Tallahassee. Sandy is a very active member of the FTYCMA organization and knows the value of faculty participation.

To be considered for the scholarship, please complete the application that appears in this issue. If you are awarded the scholarship, your expenses at the next FTYCMA retreat will be covered. Preference is given to members of FTYCMA who have never attended a retreat.

Membership Dues Increase for New Fiscal Year

Annual membership has increased to \$15 per year, effective at the start of the new membership year, which was July 1, 2016. Lifetime membership fees has also increased to \$225 beginning July 1st.

New Lifetime Members

- Allen Angel — Retired from Monroe Community College, NY
- Janet Samuels — State College of Florida, Manatee and Sarasota
- Sandra Seifert — Florida SouthWestern State College
- Anna Wasilewska — State College of Florida, Manatee and Sarasota
- Rebecca Williams — State College of Florida, Manatee and Sarasota
- Terry Zamar — Florida SouthWestern State College



The Causes and Prevention of Math Anxiety

by Marilyn Curtain-Phillips, M. Ed.
(Reproduced from Education.com. Reformatted for space.)



Mathematics anxiety has been defined as feelings of tension and anxiety that interfere with the manipulation of numbers and the solving of mathematical problems in a wide variety of ordinary life and academic situations. Math anxiety can cause one to forget and lose one's self-confidence (Tobias, S., 1993).

Three practices that are a regular part of the traditional mathematics classroom and cause great anxiety in many students are imposed authority, public exposure and time deadlines. Research confirms that pressure of timed tests and risk of public embarrassment have long been recognized as sources of unproductive tension among many students. Therefore, teaching methods must be re-examined and more emphasis placed on teaching methods which include less lecture, more student directed classes and more discussion.

Given the fact that many students experience math anxiety in the traditional classroom, teachers should design classrooms that will make them feel more successful. Therefore, incorrect responses must be handled in a positive way to encourage student participation and enhance student confidence.

Learners are different than they were forty years ago. These learners today ask questions why something is done this way or that way and why not this way? Whereas years ago learners did not question the why of math concepts; they simply memorized and mechanically performed the operations needed. Studies have shown students learn best when they are active rather than passive learners (Spikell, 1993). Since everyone is capable of learning, but may learn in different ways, lessons must be presented in a variety of ways. For example, different ways to teach a new concept can be through play acting, cooperative groups, visual aids, hands on activities and technology.

References

- Spikell, M. (1993). *Teaching mathematics with manipulatives: A resource of activities for the K-12 teacher*. New York: Allyn and Bacon.
- Tobias, S. (1993). *Overcoming math anxiety*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Students' prior negative experiences in math class and at home when learning math are often transferred and cause a lack of understanding of mathematics. According to Sheila Tobias, millions of adults are blocked from professional and personal opportunities because they fear or perform poorly in mathematics for many, these negative experiences remain throughout their lives.

Math is often associated with pain and frustration. For instance, unpaid bills, unforeseen debts, unbalanced checkbooks, IRS forms are a few of the negative experiences associated with numbers. Parents should show their children how numbers are successfully used by them in positive pleasant ways, such as in cooking, sewing, sports, problem solving in hobbies and home repairs. Math must be looked upon in a positive light to reduce anxiety as a person's state of mind has a great influence on his/her success.

Most students will master mathematical concepts and skills more readily if they are presented first in concrete, pictorial and symbols. By using manipulatives, pictures and symbols to model or represent abstract ideas, the stage is set for learners to understand the abstractions they represent. Students enjoy the change from lecture and books and they are more inclined to explore with manipulatives and show greater interest in classwork.

In conclusion, math anxiety is very real and occurs among thousands of people. Teachers must re-examine their traditional teaching methods to address students' varied learning styles and to reinforce the mathematical skills needed in society. Furthermore, if students see mathematics in a positive light, indeed as fun, their anxiety will be greatly reduced, and the joy of mathematics could remain with them throughout their lives.

Marilyn Curtain-Phillips teaches high school mathematics and is the author of several books on math education.

Coming Up...



Mathematics in the Sun XIV—Fall Retreat 2016

October 7 & 8, 2016

State College of Florida
Bradenton, FL

This year's theme is "An Examination of the Curriculum in College-Level Mathematics Course". We continue the breakout format used at in the past: all attendees will have an opportunity to attend and contribute to each of three discussion strands, culminating in a final summary and discussion at the end of the retreat. Please see our events page <http://scf1.scf.edu/ftycma/html/events.html> for more details.



AMATYC Annual Conference

Denver, CO

November 17-20, 2016

Make plans now to attend the 42nd Annual AMATYC Conference in Denver, CO, November 17-20, 2016. In addition to Thursday's keynote address and

Saturday's breakfast presentation, the program includes two outstanding featured speakers, an introduction of the updated Guidelines for Assessment and Instruction in Statistical Education (GAISE) along with a workshop demonstrating activities supporting the guidelines, and two themed sessions. The Mathematics Intensive/College Mathematics Committee will sponsor Teaching and Learning in Precalculus, Calculus, and Beyond in which presenters will share sample projects and teaching strategies. The second themed session, sponsored by the Placement/Assessment Committee, will focus on placement and assessment issues, ideas, and challenges with What's Up in the Placement & Assessment Corner? Visit our events page <http://scf1.scf.edu/ftycma/html/events.html> for more details.



Joint Meetings of Florida Section of MAA/FTYCMA

State College of Florida, Bradenton, FL

February 17-18, 2017

The annual joint meetings of the MAA-Florida Section and FTYCMA will be held on February 17-18, 2017 on the campus of State College of Florida in Bradenton, FL. We invite talks (either 20 minutes or 45 minutes in duration) and workshops or special topic sessions (105 minutes) from mathematicians in the State University System, the Florida Community College System, and the state's private colleges and universities. Graduate and undergraduate students are also invited to participate.

Those who wish to be considered for the program talks or workshops should send their name, institutional affiliation, title, and an abstract of one hundred and fifty words or less to the Florida Section's Vice-President for Programs, Daniel Jelsovsky, and indicate a talk or workshop and its duration. This information should be sent via e-mail as Word or LaTeX attachments. Deadline for submission is **December 10, 2016**. See our events page <http://scf1.scf.edu/ftycma/html/events.html> for more details.



MAA Florida Section

Suncoast Conference

December 2, 2016

The 41st annual Suncoast Regional meeting of the Florida Section of MAA is set for 2, 2016 at St. Petersburg College—Seminole Campus, Seminole FL. See our events page <http://scf1.scf.edu/ftycma/html/events.html> for more details.

The Suncoast Region invites talks that are 20 or 45 minutes long in any area of mathematics. To be considered for a presentation, e-mail your title and abstract (in a Word document) to Program Chair, Bill Hemme by Tuesday, November 15, 2016.



Teaching Excellence and Outstanding Services Awards

In even numbered years, FTYCMA presents a **Teaching Excellence Award** to one of its members who has at least 5 years of teaching experience, has exhibited outstanding teaching ability, and has created or adapted innovative teaching methods or materials. (Special consideration is given by the committee to those who have shared such practices with colleagues.)

The list of past honorees is:

- 1994 Bill Jordan (Seminole CC)
- 1996 Frank Ward (Indian River CC)
- 1998 Lou Cleveland (Chipola College)
- 2000 Bill Palow (Miami-Dade College)
- 2002 Martha Goshaw (Seminole CC)
- 2004 John Salak (Tallahassee CC)
- 2006 Dennis Runde (Manatee CC)
- 2008 Steven Grosteffon (Santa Fe College)
- 2010 Debbie Garrison (Valencia College)
- 2012 Don Ransford (Edison State College)
- 2014 Sandy Cohen (St. Petersburg College)
- 2016 Joni Pirnot (State College of Florida)

In odd numbered years, FTYCMA presents an **Outstanding Service Award** to one of its members who has made an exemplary contribution to the teaching profession through length of service, advocacy of mathematics education, and contributions both to the success of FTYCMA and to the progress of others in the field.

The list of past honorees is:

- 1993 Mike Mears (Manatee CC)
- 1995 Joan Golliday (Santa Fe CC)
- 1997 Moana Karsteter (Tallahassee CC)
- 1999 Glenn Smith (Santa Fe CC)
- 2001 Guesna Dohrman (Tallahassee CC)
- 2003 Carl Hensley (Indian River CC)
- 2005 Cliff Morris (Valencia CC)
- 2007 Norma Agras (Miami-Dade College)
- 2009 Janette Campbell (Palm Beach SC)
- 2011 Byron Dyce (Santa Fe College)
- 2013 Deepankar Rick Pal (Valencia College)
- 2015 Bill Hemme (St. Petersburg College)

Nominations are now open for Outstanding Service Award for 2017. If you would like to nominate a member of FTYCMA for the Outstanding Service Award, and you are currently a member, then forward the recommended person's name along with supporting documentation to Altay Özgener at ozgenea@scf.edu.

FTYCMA Membership Form

Name _____

College _____

Address _____

Phones _____

Email _____

Are you a member of AMATYC ____ Yes ____ No

Mail completed form and

\$15 (annual) or \$225 (life membership) payment to:

(Please circle or underline which membership)

Ryan Kasha, FTYCMA Treasurer
Valencia College
1800 S. Kirkman Road (MC 4-23)
Orlando, FL 32811
(407) 582-1475
rkasha@valenciacollege.edu

Please make checks payable to FTYCMA.

We are not accepting credit card payments at this time.

The Florida Two-Year College Mathematics Association

is a non-profit, education association with the expressed purpose:

- I. to encourage the development of effective mathematics programs;
- II. to afford a statewide forum for the sharing of ideas;
- III. to further develop and improve the mathematics education and mathematics-related experiences of students in the first two years of college;
- IV. to promote the professional welfare and development of its members.

Benefits of Membership include:

- ★ Reduced admission to retreat
- ★ Opportunities for service
- ★ Opportunities to contribute to curriculum discussions that could lead to political action.

Benefits of the life membership include:

- ★ A certificate of lifetime membership
- ★ A laminated wallet-sized membership card
- ★ A FTYCMA lapel pin
- ★ A reserved position in the honor roll of life members

