

Summer 2016



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## Dates of Interest

May 21, 2016

**FTYCMA Officers Meeting**  
State College of Florida  
Bradenton, FL

November 17-20, 2016

**42<sup>nd</sup> AMATYC Annual Conference**  
Denver, Colorado

## FTYCMA Officers

### President

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### Historian

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## FTYCMA/MAA-Florida Section Joint Meeting Highlights



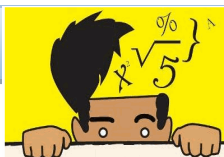
The FTYCMA Board went through a change of guards at the FTYCMA/MAA-Florida Section Joint meeting at Saint Leo University in St. Leo on February 26, 2016.

Outgoing president, Ryan Kasha has passed the mantle to Altay Özgener for the next two years. Altay will maintain his role as Webmaster for the Association.

Rebecca Williams has assumed the position of Historian and Dennis Runde will step in as Membership Services Coordinator.

Ryan Kasha will continue to serve on the board in his capacity as Past President, but will also take on the duties of the Treasurer in Mike Keller's stead.

All members are invited to the business meetings held yearly, and those interested in serving on the board will be gladly received.



## AMATYC Presidential Student Scholarship

AMATYC will award a monetary scholarship to a deserving student during their Fall board meeting. Each affiliate will submit one student nomination. To determine the student for FTYCMA, faculty is being asked to submit a name to a designated representative at each institution. One student from each institution will be selected to go into the affiliate pool. The student selected from this group will be sent to the AMATYC President who will make the final selection. The deadline to send student names to FTYCMA is September 9, 2016. The criteria for students and more details can be found at <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=PresStudentScholar>.

## Mike Keller, Treasurer Extraordinaire

thank  
you!

Mike Keller of St. Johns River State College, served as our illustrious treasurer for the past three years. He fulfilled the duties to the fullest extend and beyond, including depositing his own money so that we did not have to pay the monthly service fees.

Mike, we would like to send our deepest gratitude and appreciation, and we wish you every success in your future endeavors.



Friend us on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/FTYCMA](http://www.facebook.com/FTYCMA)

## The Bobby Cohen Memorial Scholarship



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.

## AMATYC 2018 Theme and Logo Contest

The Local Events Committee is currently running a theme and logo contest for the 2018 AMATYC conference in Orlando, FL. A \$25 gift certificate will be awarded to each of the top three designs. If you wish to enter, please forward your entries to Penny Morris ([pmorris@polk.edu](mailto:pmorris@polk.edu)) for consideration. The deadline for entering is May 4, 2016. The prize winning entries will be forwarded to the Conference Coordinator and the AMATYC Planning Council for final approval.



## Membership Dues Increase for New Fiscal Year

Annual membership is increasing to \$15 per year, effective at the start of the new membership year, which is July 1, 2016. Lifetime membership fees will also increase to \$225 beginning July 1st. Membership is available at the current rates until July 1, 2016; annual membership is \$10 and lifetime membership is \$150.

## New Lifetime Members

Sharon Sweet—Florida State College of Jacksonville  
Rebecca Williams — State College of Florida

# Member Articles...

## Are We Imparting Knowledge or Weeding?

Carl Clark, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Mathematics

Indian River State College

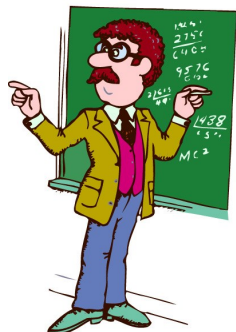


I attended the Florida Two-Year College Mathematics Association (FTYCMA) annual fall retreat last Fall, and the theme was: “What is college level mathematics a decade and a half into the twenty-first century?” We spent two days discussing this issue and seemed to be just as divided as when we started.

This division centers on strongly held beliefs of the role for college-level mathematics. Are we attempting to impart mathematical numeracy? Train students to use higher-level mathematics? Or, provide a weeding service for other disciplines and the higher education system as a whole? Amazingly, these three root ideas are not mutually exclusive to the dichotomous debate of “College Algebra is the minimum requirement to collegiate work,” or “Statistics and other courses are just as rigorous.”

Many of my colleagues believe that College Algebra is the minimum requirement a student should have to complete to earn a college degree. I disagree. Having taught in K – 12 and having taught College Algebra, I firmly believe that College Algebra is a less demanding course than an Algebra II Honors course taught at high schools in the State of Florida. Thus, allowing College Algebra to be the defining factor for a college degree implies that we only expect college graduates to complete Grade 10 mathematics.

One the other end of the spectrum, one colleague argued that Calculus should be the minimum requirement for collegiate mathematics work. Calculus sets the bar a lot higher, for only a small fraction of the population will ever pass a Calculus class. But, do we really want to set the bar that high?



“Are we training students to use higher-level mathematics, ... or are we providing a weeding service for other disciplines or the higher education system as a whole?”

A growing trend in college-level mathematics is an approach to numeracy and that is taught through courses commonly referred to as “Liberal Arts Mathematics.” These courses often contain a broad curriculum and introduce the students to mathematical topics they have never encountered. For example, some of the more common topics are Voting Theory, Graph Theory, Set Theory, Formal Logic, and Principles of Finance. Some argue that because these topics are not Algebra based, they are not rigorous enough for collegiate mathematics. I argue that by the simple nature that they are new material, whereas College Algebra is high school material, students who complete these courses have demonstrated more numeracy and proven themselves to be a better college student.

Another reason for using the Liberal Arts courses as a gauge of college-level mathematics competency is the fact that they are not sequential. That is, if I have a basic understanding of the material in Liberal Arts I, it won’t affect my ability to have a strong understanding of Liberal Arts II and vice versa. In College Algebra however, if a student only has a basic understanding of the material, he will more than likely fail on his first attempt at Pre-Calculus. This is an important issue since many degrees require two college-level mathematics courses as a minimum requirement. Which brings up the elephant in the room.

Are we imparting knowledge or weeding? It is quite apparent that the way the system is designed, we are supposed to do both... Many engineers, doctors, lawyers, etcetera will certainly tell you that they have never used Calculus once they left college, so why was it required for their program? The answer is simple: completing Calculus requires high analytic intelligence, determination, and perseverance – all qualities that we want in people who do jobs where decisions affect life and death. But the question becomes, do we need to weed-out people whose chosen career fields aren’t so paramount to human survival? For example, an elementary school teacher isn’t required to have the level of analytical ability we would expect from a structural engineer, and she really only needs a middle school level of mathematics to teach basic arithmetic, so I postulate that having her complete a Liberal Arts curriculum in mathematics is more advantageous because it actually allows her to enjoy mathematics as opposed to seeing mathematics as the enemy, and passing on these sentiments to her students.

# Member Articles...

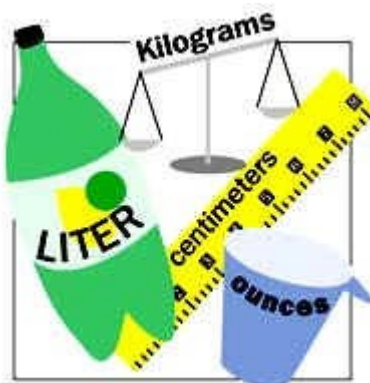
## A Case for Going Metric...

Tony Planas, EdD  
Florida Gulf Coast University

We, as educators, have an obligation and provide all possible venues for educating prepare them well as we go deeper into the

The Metric System or SI, International d'Unités) has been used for a long period world. One of the most recent countries System is Ireland.

The United States of America is the only to accept a conversion to the SI or Metric metric units in its space exploration and Physics also use *metric units* in classes. It "The Martian" (2015) all measurements esting, isn't it?



duty, with instructional responsibility, to our students and the whole community to 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

System of Units (Le Système International of time in almost all countries in the who changed completely to the Metric

major country in the world still reluctant System, even though NASA uses *only* educational subjects like Chemistry and is relevant that in the Hollywood movie are shown just in *metric units*. It is inter-

A lack of concern, information, and apathy involves all of us at this moment in recognizing how important a role Metric System of measurement is playing in today's global economy.

In fact, in the local FT. Myers area, "dual" speed limit signs have been posted on Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy from Alico Rd. to Corkscrew Rd. showing **mph** and **km/h** together as a way to acquaint Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students and the community with this unfamiliar system of measurement.

Public Law 94-168 (originally drafted in 1975 and revised in 1988) codified under 15 U.S.C §205b – Declaration of policy is still active and it has not been revoked or eliminated by the U.S. Congress as of yet and states that:

"It is therefore the declared policy of the United States..."

"(1) to designate the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce..."

"(3) to seek out ways to increase understanding of the metric system of measurement through educational information and guidance and in Government publications..."

I suggest to watch a report made by NBC-2 TV news on <http://www.nbc-2.com/story/24077659/good-question-why-are-speed-limits-posted-in-kilometers#.Vuh6NeabG4Y> about the posting of the "dual" speed limit signs on Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy in Lee County, Florida.

For more information at <http://www.us-metric.org/>

## Coming Up...



**42nd AMATYC Annual Conference**

**November 17–20, 2016**

**Denver, Colorado**

The 42nd Annual conference of the American Mathematical Association for Two Year Colleges will be held on November 17th through the 20th this year in Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver Colorado. The deadline for Presenter proposals is February 1, 2016. Visit the AMATYC website



# Bobby Cohen Memorial Scholarship Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 College \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phones \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

1. Have you ever attended the Fall Retreat of FTYCMA?  
 Yes  No
2. If you answered **Yes** to question 1, was it more than three years ago?  
 Yes  No
3. Why do you want to attend the Fall Retreat of FTYCMA?
4. What can you and your college, contribute to FTYCMA?
5. What topics would you like to see discussed at the Fall Retreat?
6. Would you be willing to make a presentation at the Fall Retreat?  
 Yes  No
7. If yes, would you discuss the math strategies/initiatives being tried at your college?
8. Is there a colleague that you can travel with to the Fall Retreat, who is not a member of FTYCMA?

Deadline for mailing this document back is **September 1, 2016**. Please complete the application and send/email it to:

**Sandy Cohen**  
**SPC-Tarpon Springs Campus-Math**  
**600 Klosterman Rd.**  
**Tarpon Springs, FL. 34689**  
**Cohen.Sandy@spcollege.edu**

*Disclaimer: Preference is given to applicants that have never attended a fall retreat or have not attended in the last 3 years. The scholarship will only cover the retreat cost.*

# Mike Mears Retires After $6^2 + 1$ Years

Narrated by Mike Himself

My first meeting with our group (FTYCMA) was at Daytona Beach (it met with FL Section MAA) in February, 1980. This was when the group was called the Florida Junior College Teachers of Mathematics. I took on various officer positions over the years, and amazingly, was not impeached in any of them.

I was lucky to be part of the team to bring the organization a new name (which is still uses, FTYCMA) with a new logo, which was



designed by Ben Braun of St. Petersburg College. By the late 1980s, FTYCMA ceased to exist for a year or two, but a stubborn group brought it back to life, and it has been active ever since.

My biggest claim to fame is hiring great faculty at Manatee Community College (now State College of Florida), many of whom have taken on major leadership roles with both FTYCMA and MAA. I am retiring this May from SCF but hope to still show up to FTYCMA events and enjoy some free food.

*We thank you, Mike Mears, for your years of service to the FTYCMA organization in particular and to the Florida College System in general. We wish you all the best in your retirement and look forward to your visits to our events.*

## Mike's Top 10 FTYCMA-Related Things to Do in Retirement

10. Stop by SCF Math Department at peak times and ask folks "are you busy?"
9. Camp a lot (a prime number each year)
8. Get 2 old VW's back on the road.
7. Get FTYCMA Board to approve a new policy that will send money and gifts regularly to its retired members.
6. Go ballooning and ponder Newton.

5. Do at least 43.7% of my wife's honey-do list.
4. Attend FTYCMA/MAA conferences and ask stupid questions (note: I started doing this way before retirement).
3. Help grandchildren love math (and camping).
2. Double check the volume number of each FTYCMA Newsletter for accuracy.
1. Live a long life so my FTYCMA Lifetime Membership is even a better deal!



## *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)

*Congratulations!*

**Joni Pirnot**

**Teaching Excellence Award 2016.**

Joni is a Professor of Mathematics at State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota. She was recognized at the spring meeting with a plaque and a cash award of \$100.

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](mailto:ozgenea@scf.edu).



### FTYCMA Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phones \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of AMATYC \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Mail completed form and

\$10 (annual) or \$150 (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

