

FTYCMA

FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATIONS

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Spring 2009 Issue

Volume 3.1415926535897932384626433832795028841

Famous Math Quote

"The moving power of mathematical invention is not reasoning but imagination."

-Augustus De Morgan

Presidential Address

FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION (FTYCMA)

by Donald Ransford

The Florida Two Year College Mathematics Association (FTYCMA) is the Florida affiliate for AMATYC. Our two major annual events are the Fall Retreat and the Annual Business Meeting and Conference.

The Fall Retreat (or Mathematics in the Sun) has taken place annually since 2002 and is usually held the last weekend in September or the first weekend in October provided there are no conflicts with religious holidays or local events. The location has stayed primarily in the central part of the state in hopes of maximizing attendance. The cost for attending the Fall Retreat is determined by the retreat coordinator(s) and basically covers the expense for providing food. To date, the fee has never been more than \$50 and discounts are provided for early registrants and FTYCMA members.

The retreat focuses on a topic selected by the executive board related to mathematics education in Florida two-year colleges that is of particular interest to or that is particularly troubling for all relevant institutions. The retreat usually begins with an officers' meeting on Friday morning followed by open sessions from noon to 5:00 on Friday and from 9:00 to 3:00 on Saturday. The most common format has been to divide the main topic into sub-topics, break into self-selected sub-groups who brainstorm and/or share ideas that are recorded by a notetaker, have the sub-groups rotate a couple of times, and reconvene as a unit and summarize the outcomes of the discussions. At some point during the retreat, a speaker is or speakers are invited to provide background, related research findings, or pedagogical suggestions for implementing aspects of the chosen topic. These speakers may be state officials or representatives from active groups within FTYCMA, AMATYC or MAA. A summary of the retreat outcomes is then drafted and disseminated by email through institutional liaisons identified by the newsletter editor and posted at FTYCMA's website with the intent of determining next-steps for the topic at a workshop held on the Friday morning of the Joint Meetings of FTYCMA and the Florida Section of MAA in the subsequent February. In some cases, the decision has been to publish a position statement and in others it has been to publish a document with suggestions for reform in curriculum and/or instructional methods.

The Joint Meetings of FTYCMA and the Florida Section of MAA are held each February in various locations around the state determined by the MAA group. Friday morning is primarily dedicated to FTYCMA

activities beginning with an officers' meeting, the workshop as a follow-up to the Fall Retreat, and the Annual Business Meeting. The rest of the conference follows a similar time schedule as the Fall Retreat but consists of 45 minute presentations from organizational members, 15 minute student research presentations, and plenary speakers selected by MAA.

In addition to the regular protocol of business meetings, FTYCMA also awards a Teaching Excellence Award in even-numbered years and an Outstanding Service Award in odd-numbered years, and presents certificates, laminated ID cards and lapel pins to new lifetime members of FTYCMA. (Cost for a lifetime membership is 15 times the cost of the current annual membership, and new members as well as those renewing may now pay their dues through PayPal at the FTYCMA website.) New officers are elected in even-numbered years and serve for two years. The slate of officers is compiled by the President-Elect and presented to the membership at the meeting for a vote of acceptance or additional nominations. The offices of FTYCMA include President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP-Programs/Retreat Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Membership Services Coordinator, and Historian.

The FTYCMA By-Laws dictate that at least one newsletter be distributed per year, but in the past several years there have usually been two newsletters published each year. The newsletter is distributed via email through liaisons who have been identified as willing participants at each two-year college and the newsletter editor for the Florida Section of MAA. These contact people are then asked to forward the newsletter to all persons of interest within their institution or organization. The newsletter is also made available through the FTYCMA website.

Active agenda items include reviewing and updating the FTYCMA Constitution and By-Laws, establishing a scholarship for a mathematics student at a Florida two-year college, and unearthing potential methods for increasing and maintaining the number of active members with an emphasis on the word "active."

Although FTYCMA does not host its own mathematics contest, the organization does provide monetary support annually for the Math Olympics for mathematics students at two-year colleges held each spring at the University of North Florida.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please indicate via email to Professor Pal at drpal100@hotmail.com.

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Ryan Kasha

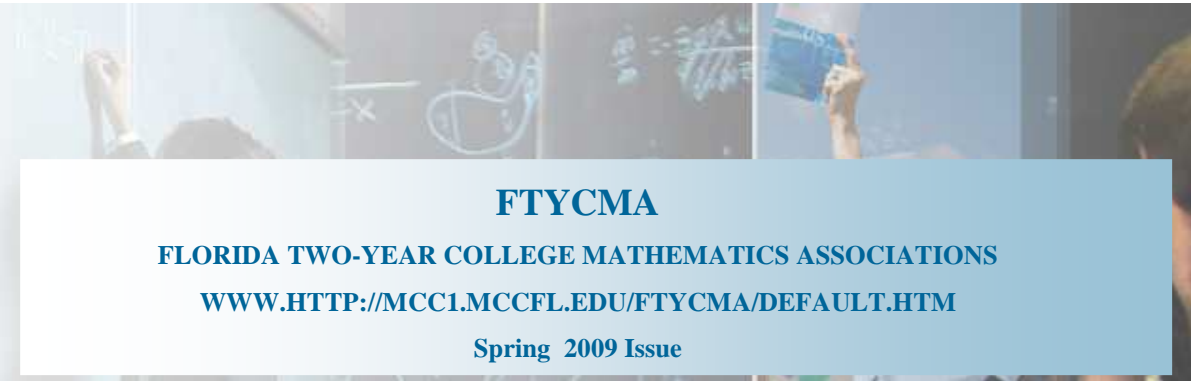
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Faculty Spotlight



Taranna Amani Miller is a Professor of Mathematics at Indian River State College. She completed her undergraduate studies in Aerospace Engineering and Master's in Applied Mathematics from Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. She is originally from Bangladesh. Her passions include traveling, learning languages, planes and everything to do with space!

She teaches Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, Precalculus Algebra, Trigonometry, Calculus Sequence, Statistics and Liberal Arts I and II.

She may be contacted at 772-462-7602 or emailed via amiller@ircc.edu

If you wish to have your faculty member from your community college spotlighted please contact Professor Pal at drpal100@hotmail.com

Editor's Notes

Hello colleagues,

I hope you all are doing well during these difficult budgetary conditions. They tell us we have to do more with less due to the economic environment, but to us math professors we have mastered the art of doing multiple things with very limited resources. So to us, this is just another opportunity to create opportunities for our students that will enable them to achieve better quantitative literacy. There is nothing like a recession to bring out creative resourcefulness.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at this year's AMATYC conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, November 12th to 15th 2009. Information can be found at the following link <http://www.amatyc.org/Events/conferences/2009LV/index.html>

I wish you all a successful Spring and Summer semester and please continue to send in your excellent submissions.

Please, keep these important dates in mind:

FTYCMA Board Meeting at Polk State College
Oct. 2nd, 2009

FTYCMA Math in the Sun VII at Polk State College
Oct. 3rd, 2009

AMATYC Conference in Las Vegas
Nov. 12-15th, 2009

And FL-MAA Meeting at Santa Fe Community College
Feb. 19-20th, 2010

From the Editor: Rick Pal



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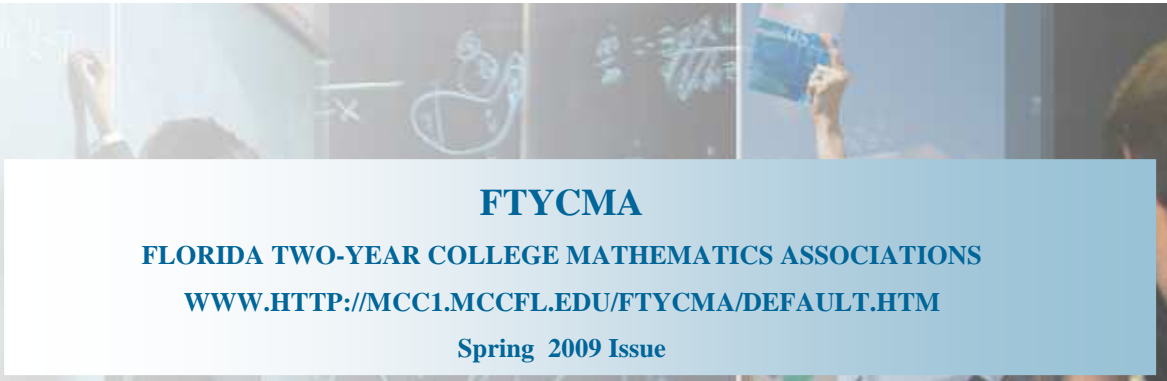
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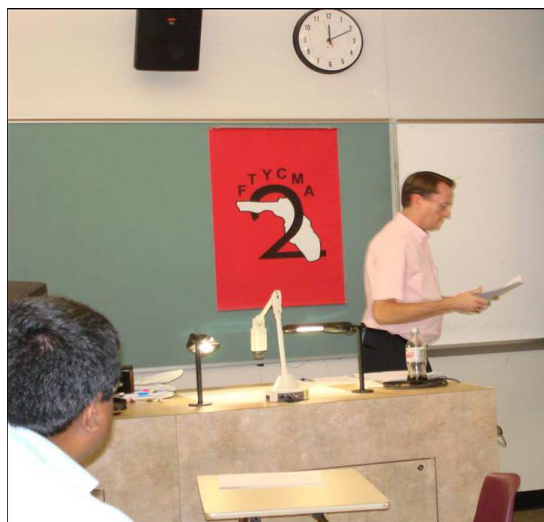
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Pictures From MAA-FTYCMA Joint Meetings in February 2009 at Florida Gulf Coast University



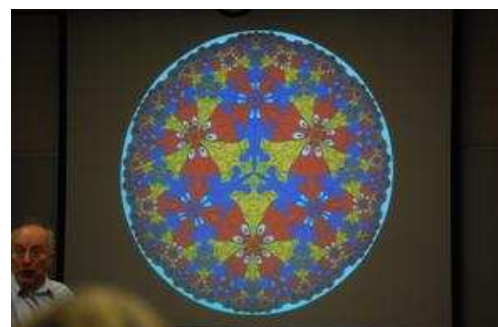
FL-MAA Meeting Conference February 2009.



Foreground President-elect Rick Pal & Current president Don Ransford presiding over a FTYCMA Board Meeting



FTYCMA President Don Ransford Giving the Welcoming Address



Prof. Joseph A. Gallian, of the University of Minnesota Duluth using groups and graph to create symmetry patterns



Prof. Edward B. Burger of Williams College: “How to Always Win at Limbo” or “You can sum some of the series some of the time, and some of the series none of the time... but you can sum some of the series ALL of the time?”



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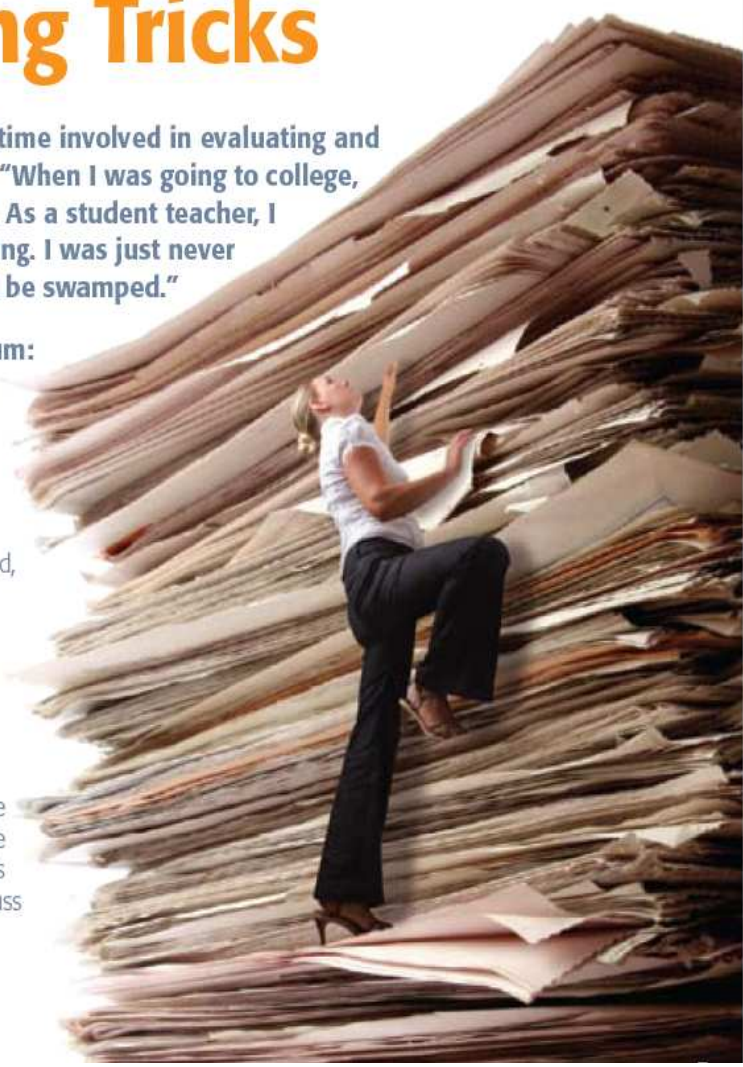
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Overwhelmed with Paperwork? Try These Time-Saving Tricks

One of the biggest shocks to new teachers is the sheer amount of time involved in evaluating and grading students' work. Veteran New York teacher Lisa Roe recalls, "When I was going to college, I was never told how much grading and record keeping there'd be. As a student teacher, I wrote the lesson plans and my supporting teacher did all the grading. I was just never exposed to all the paperwork. If you're not on top of it daily, you'll be swamped."

Here are some suggestions on keeping the paperwork to a minimum:

- Instead of correcting each and every homework assignment, give quick and random quizzes to assess what's been learned. Collect and grade them on some days, and on others, give students the answers to evaluate their own quizzes. That way they will always be motivated to learn from the homework you assign.
- Verbal responses, individual or in chorus, are another way to check learning. Student-to-student methods of response give each student the chance to respond, and a peer will usually correct wrong responses.
- Measure student achievement formally by preparing short quizzes that test specific skills and concepts. These are easy to correct, and they give information you can use immediately.
- Get help from your students. Instead of developing and duplicating practice pages, have your students make their own practice problems. To gauge their comprehension, for example, have students make up five questions that could be used to test whether their classmates understood the chapter. Have them star the question they think is best. Examine that one question. If you doubt the student's understanding, then check the rest. Choose several of the best questions to discuss as a class or answer individually.



Sources:

Timesavers for Teachers www.timesaversforteachers.com

Help for Your First Class <http://teacher.scholastic.com/newteacher>

From Chalk Talk Winter 2009 issue



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Free Stuff for Your Classroom

If the budget comes up short this year, it doesn't mean your classroom has to suffer. Whether you need finger paints, a fish tank or books for high school-aged readers, here are some great ways teachers can get resources for the classrom.



Places To Go:

Teacher swaps. Set a date to meet up with other teachers and trade your gently used books and supplies. Much like clothing swaps which can double the contents of your closet, teacher swaps can clear out what you no longer use while acquiring new supplies.

Reach out to businesses in your area. Local (non-retail) companies often have storage cupboards full of supplies they no longer need. They may be happy to find a new home for them.

Contact local newspapers and magazines for books. Local authors or publishers

often send their books for review to the local media, where they languish away on shelves until someone donates them to Goodwill. Call your local newspaper to see which age-appropriate books are lying around.

Options on the web:

Donorschoose.org. Public school teachers can sign up for an account with Donorschoose.org and request donations for materials; web-browsing philanthropists can then offer partial or full donations towards the need. Some recent requests have included audio books for fifth-graders in Alabama and an LCD projector for high school students in Massachusetts.

Craigslist.org. Craigslist.org isn't just the province of no-fee apartments and "missed connections" – it's also a great place for you to hunt for materials. Visit the Craigslist site for your city and start hunting.

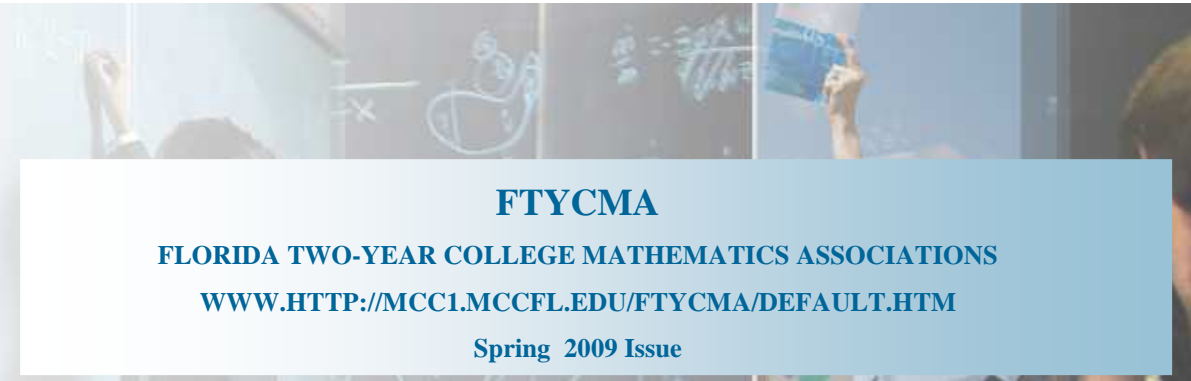
Freecycle.org.

In the spirit of recycling, Freecycle.org connects people who have items they'd like to give away to people who need those things in their area. Join your city's Freecycle.org Yahoo group and make a request for the items you need for your classroom on the group's message board. For example, you can say "WANTED: books for Kindergarteners" and anyone willing to give you such books will contact you.

Sharetechnology.org. Share the Technology provides a list of web resources, such as the non-profit Computers For

Schools, where companies can find new homes for their discarded computer equipment. Visit their sites to see if you can find a computer equipment donation near you.

ILoveSchools.com. Join the other teachers who post their profiles at ILoveSchools.com requesting classroom material donations. The site lists your zip code's average household income, so potential philanthropists are aware of the needs of your community's children.



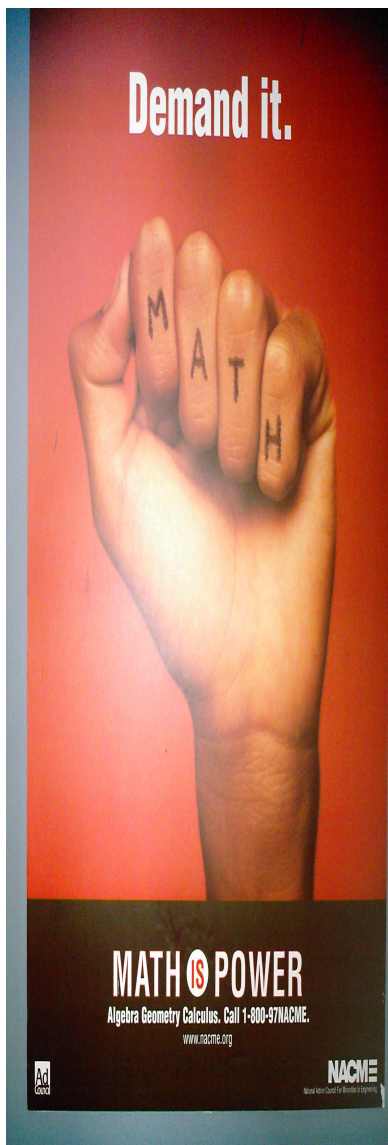
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FTYCMA Rewards Outstanding Teaching and Service

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 CC)



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.

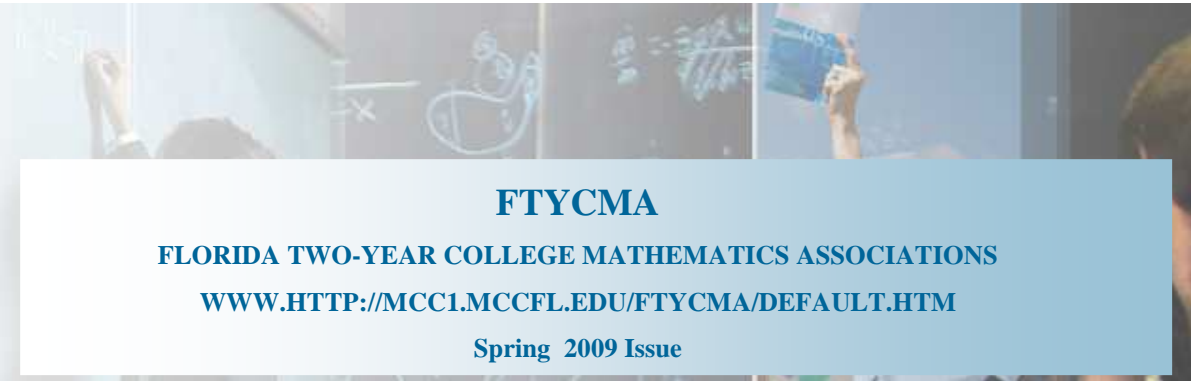
The list of past honorees is:

- 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 (MDC)
- 2009 Janette Campbell (Palm Beach CC)

Each award recipient is recognized at the spring meeting with a plaque and a cash award of \$100; and since the next spring meeting will be in 2010 (an even-numbered year), it is time to consider a nominee for the Teaching Excellence Award.

If you would like to nominate a member of FTYCMA for the Teaching Excellence Award, and you are currently a member, then forward the recommended person's name along with supporting documentation to D. Rick Pal at drpal50@hotmail.com.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please indicate via email to Professor Pal at drpal100@hotmail.com.



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2009 Outstanding Service Award Winner
Janette Campbell
Of
Palm Beach Community College.



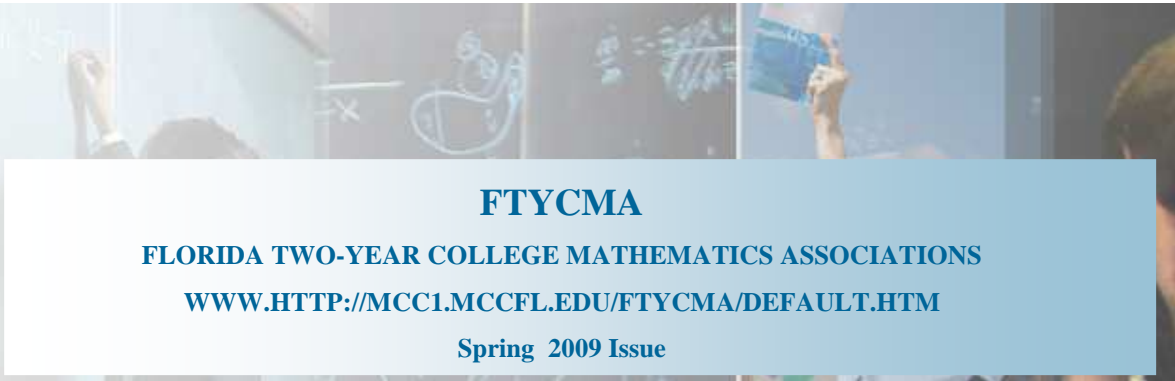
Janette has been a member of FTYCMA for more than 30 years and her contributions are numerous to mention. The FTYCMA Family thank her for all that she has done to help our organization succeed and grow.

From Mike Mears, former FTYCMA President:

Not to show my age, but I met Janette in December of 1979 at a one week MAA minicourse on *Using Scientific Calculators in the Math Classroom* as taught by Harley Flanders at Florida Atlantic University. I have been impressed with her devotion to what we do ever since . . . So, she may well have been a FTYCMA member for over thirty years, but maybe she won't want us to know! She has always been active and is a terrific choice for the award this year.

From Don Ransford, current FTYCMA President:

Janette has been a faithful member to and active with FTYCMA and AMATYC for at least twenty years, has attended and served as a delegate at the AMATYC Annual Conference numerous times, has been an active participant at all the FTYCMA retreats, has regularly attended the Joint Meetings of the Florida Section of MAA and FTYCMA each spring, and is currently holding the office of secretary of FTYCMA. I am proud to be able to consider her as a colleague and to present this award to her.



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Some of the Community Colleges have expanded their mission to becoming State Colleges and as such changed their names. But to us they are

**THE
PERFECT
28**



Benefits of the life membership include:

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

Keep updated at

<http://mcc1.mccfl.edu/ftycma/default.htm>

FTYCMA Membership Form

Name _____

College _____

Address _____

Phones _____

Email _____

Are you a member of AMATYC ____ Yes ____ No

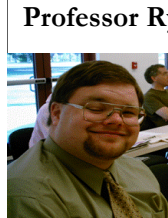
Mail completed form and

\$10 (annual) or \$150 (life membership) payment to:

(Please circle or underline which membership)



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Please make checks payable to FTYCMA.

We are now accepting Paypal Please Contact the Treasurer (jamiesom@cf.edu)
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details.

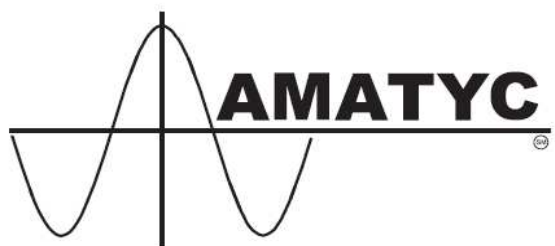
The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges

Las Vegas, Nevada

November 12-15, 2009

Hosted by
NevMATYC and the
West Region

Opening Doors Through
Mathematics



www.amatyc.org

HIGH EXPECTATIONS



LAS VEGAS - 2009

35th Annual Conference

Keynote and Breakfast Speakers

Uri Treisman

University of Texas

On Behalf of Our Students: Building a New Science of Instruction

Deborah Nolan

University of California

What a Coincidence!

Symposium

Rosemary Karr and Jack Rotman

Collin County CC and Lansing CC

New Life for Developmental Mathematics

Featured Speakers

Allan Ackerman

College of Southern Nevada

Mathamagic

Ronald Yates and Patrick Villa

College of Southern Nevada

The Probabilities of Basic Sports Wagering