



FTYCMA
FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATIONS
WWW.HTTP://MCC1.MCCFL.EDU/FTYCMA/DEFAULT.HTM
Spring 2010 Issue

Volume 3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197

Famous Math Quote

The essence of mathematics is not to make simple things complicated, but to make complicated things simple.

~S. Gudder

Letter From The Past President

As the end of my tenure as FTYCMA President, I am certain that I am running the gamut of emotions that many of my esteemed predecessors experienced as well. It is a time for reflecting on shared professional and social experiences along with perceived accomplishments. However, the end of any event marks the beginning of another. As I pass the gavel to Rick Pal, we will be entering the second decade of the second millennium, and history tells us that the future always holds great promise as well as challenges. Setting and meeting goals in an effort to continue showing progress and attempting to thwart potential challenges in mathematics in the first two years of college is much easier to accomplish as a group rather than as individuals. This is what I view as a large part of the mission of FTYCMA, and it is the role of the Executive Board to set a path and navigate the organization along its journey.

To that end, I would like to urge current members of FTYCMA or readers of this newsletter who are interested in becoming a part of the organization to consider submitting their name as a candidate for any of the offices for the 2010 – 2012 term. Other than President and Past-President, all positions must be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting in even-numbered years by voted approval. Although we have been honored to have highly qualified and dedicated individuals filling these positions over the years, a number of them have had to hold more than one position or serve numerous terms. The organization is open to and ready to accept new and progressive views of potential candidates in addition to those who have already voiced an interest in becoming involved. This is your opportunity to represent and speak for the excellent junior, community and state colleges of Florida within the state and nationally through AMATYC, and demonstrate the professional development and leadership qualities valued by your own institutions. Personally, I can attest to the fact that it is a sometimes daunting, but highly rewarding experience.

In addition to election of officers, another notable agenda item for informational and discussion purpose only at the Annual Meeting will be the membership's review of the revised and amended FTYCMA Constitution and By-Laws. Please review the old and new versions presented within this newsletter and share any thoughts and opinions at the meeting or by email prior to the meeting. Comments will be taken into consideration by the Executive Board, and a final draft will be put before the membership for a vote at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

In closing, I would like to submit a heart-felt "Thank You" to all the FTYCMA members, my colleagues and administrators at Edison State College, and the Executive Board who have provided me with a tremendous amount of support and respect during my term as President. I hope that Rick will receive the same cooperation and encouragement over the two years of his term in office as we continue our efforts to promote quality mathematics education in the first two years of college and prepare for AMATYC 2012 in Jacksonville.

Sincerely,
Don Ransford
FTYCMA Past President

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

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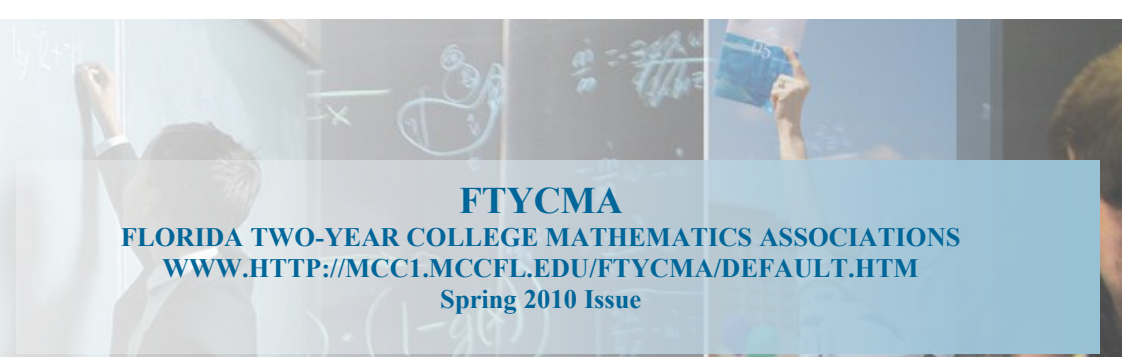
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Faculty Spotlight

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Dr. Michael Jamieson

Central Florida Community College

Professor Jamieson is a tenured mathematics professor at Central Florida CC. He teaches a wide variety of math courses. Professor Jamieson believes.

“As students, you have the primary responsibility for what you learn. The college's instructors, advisors, tutors, etc, support your educational endeavors. That job description is determined by the state of Florida and its taxpayers who pay most of the cost of your instruction. If you just want us to rubber stamp a piece of paper that says you qualify for certain jobs and admission to higher institutions, you will be disappointed.

When instructors hold students to a high standard, students tend to rise to the expectation. I love finding ways to help students step up their game. A good class is a good workout. What we teach to first and second year students is not rocket science - if you work at it you will almost certainly learn it. If you are not willing to compete, that has to do with your choice of priorities.”

“We can use technology to give access to interesting applications of mathematics. We should not let students use technology as a crutch to avoid learning significant content. I am very good at taking your calculator out of the game when you see my homework and test problems. We should drop numerous outdated topics so we can teach the essential contemporary topics in a narrower, deeper curriculum.

Students arrive at a better understanding of subject matter when they construct their own explanations of how and why our methods work reliably. Having students interact with each other is a good way to facilitate that. Group work is an excellent learning tool. Student contribution in class and student discussion can be constructive. Students goofing off give me adequate reason to eject them from the class. While learning is a group activity, testing must be done individually.

Our state and our country have been falling behind other parts of the industrialized world. We all need to work hard to catch up - both teachers and students.”

Dr. Jamieson is currently a member of the following organizations: American Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges and is a past treasurer and board member of FTYCMA.

He may be contacted at Phone Number: 352.854.2322 Ex. 1254 Email: JamiesoM@cf.edu

Editor's Notes



It is with deep humility I accept the FTYCMA Presidency. My immediate goals are to increase membership and profile of our organization. A personal thanks to outgoing FTYCMA board and past president Don Ransford for services rendered to FTYCMA.

Our individual membership dues is \$10 per year and lifetime membership is \$150 still an excellent value for such professional development. Our website URL is [www.http://mcc1.mccfl.edu/ftycma/default.htm](http://www.mcc1.mccfl.edu/ftycma/default.htm). Our aim at FTYCMA is to provide each faculty member in the math departments at the 28 state/community colleges in the state of Florida this electronic newsletter. To that task I am requesting you to forward this newsletter to as many of your colleagues as possible. We are an organization for you the math faculty in the state of Florida teaching mathematics in the first two years of a college program. Good luck and have an excellent semester.

From the Editor: Rick Pal

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



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Special Notification

The FTYCMA Constitution is up for amendment and is to be voted on February 2011 at the joint Florida MAA-FTYCMA meeting at Valencia Community College East Campus.

The following three pages of this newsletter the old constitution and the proposed new constitution are laid out side-by-side for your convenient perusal.

All recommended proposed changes are to be send to past president Don Ransford
At



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dransford@edison.edu

All of this information regarding the constitution is also available on the
FTYCMA Website

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

Any recommended suggestions can also be send to the web master



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THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

Revised: OCTOBER 1, 1996

Article 1 – Name

The name of the association is the Florida Two-Year College Mathematics Association.

Article 2 – Purpose

The Florida Two-Year Mathematics Association is a nonprofit, education association. The purpose is:

- a. to encourage the development of effective mathematics programs;
- b. to afford a state forum for interchange of ideas;
- c. to further develop and improve the mathematics education and the mathematics-related experiences of students in two-year colleges;
- d. to promote the professional welfare and development of its members.

Article 3 – Membership

Any person interested in two-year college mathematics education is eligible for regular membership.

Article 4 – Dues

Dues are paid by all members at the designated rates set at the Annual Meeting.

Article 5 – Officers

The officers of the Association are President, President-Elect, Past President, Vice President-Programs, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Treasurer. Each serves for a term of two years. The President-Elect automatically succeeds the President at the end of the President's term. The affairs of the Association are conducted by the officers of the Association, called the Executive Board, subject to the authority of the membership. In the event that an officer other than the President leaves office before the expiration of the regular term, the Executive Board shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term. Should the President leave office before the expiration of the regular term, the President-Elect will complete the unfinished term in addition to his/her regular term.

Article 6 – Meetings

The Association shall hold one regular business meeting, which is designated the Annual Meeting, each year. The Annual Meeting will normally be held in conjunction with the MAA-FL section Annual Meeting each spring. Additional meetings may be planned at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article 7 – Elections

Officers are elected by regular members using the procedures outlined in the By-Laws. New officers start their term immediately following the Annual Meeting after each election.

Article 8 – Committees

Committees are created as needed by the Executive Board to carry out the purpose of the Association. These committees are dissolved, when appropriate, by the Executive Board.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

Revised: October 2, 2009

Article 1 – Name

The name of the association is the Florida Two-Year College Mathematics Association.

Article 2 – Purpose

The Florida Two-Year Mathematics Association is a nonprofit, education association. The purpose is:

- a. to encourage the development of effective mathematics programs;
- b. to afford a state-wide forum for interchange of ideas;
- c. to further develop and improve the mathematics education and the mathematics-related experiences of students in the first two years of college;
- d. to promote the professional welfare and development of its members.

Article 3 – Membership

Any person interested in mathematics education in the first two years of college is eligible for regular membership.

Article 4 – Dues

Dues are paid by all members at the designated rates set at the Annual Meeting.

Article 5 – Officers

The officers of the Association are President, President-Elect, Past President, Vice President-Programs, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Membership Services Coordinator. Each serves for a term of two years. The President-Elect automatically succeeds the President at the end of the President's term. The affairs of the Association are conducted by the officers of the Association, called the Executive Board, subject to the authority of the membership. In the event that an officer other than the President leaves office before the expiration of the regular term, a replacement shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Board. Should the President leave office before the expiration of the regular term, the President-Elect will complete the unfinished term in addition to his/her regular term. A quorum is defined as two-thirds of the Executive Board.

Article 6 – Meetings

The Association shall hold one regular business meeting, which is designated the Annual Meeting, each year. The Annual Meeting will normally be held in conjunction with the MAA-FL section Annual Meeting each spring. The membership shall be notified at least three months prior to any changes to the date of this meeting. Additional meetings may be planned at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Article 7 – Elections

Officers are elected by regular members using the procedures outlined in the By-Laws. New officers start their term immediately following the Annual Meeting after each election.

Article 8 – Committees

Committees are created as needed by the Executive Board to carry out the purpose of the Association. These committees are dissolved, when appropriate, by the Executive Board.



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Article 9 – Governing Rules

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised, govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or By-Laws.

Article 10 – Amendment Procedure

Proposed amendments to this Constitution are initiated by a majority vote to the total annual Assembly in the spring. Ratification of a proposed amendment is conducted by a mail ballot of all members. A two-thirds vote of approval of the members responding by the deadline stated on the ballot is required for ratification. Ballots will be prepared, distributed, and tallied under the direction of the Executive Board or its delegate(s).

Article 11 – Affiliations

The Association shall be affiliated with the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Florida Section of the Mathematical Association of America, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Article 12 – Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved only after an amendment of this Constitution has been adopted that provides for the transfer of all unencumbered funds to an organization with similar purposes.

Article 13 – Adoption

This constitution shall be adopted when approved by the majority of the interested people attending the Spring, 1997 meeting.

BY-LAWS OF THE FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

Revised: OCTOBER 1, 1996

Article 1 – Membership

Any person becomes a member upon filling out the membership form and paying dues for the current membership year. The membership year shall begin January 1 each year. Only members of the Association may hold office, nominate candidates for office, nominate candidates for awards, receive awards, or serve on official committees.

Article 2 – Duties of Officers

The President shall:

- preside at all meetings of the association, serve as Chairman of the Executive Board, and prepare the agenda for all Assembly and Board meetings.
- act as ex-officio member of all committees.
- Appoint one of the members of the Executive Board to serve in he/her place in case of temporary absence.
- organize and coordinate the program of the regular business meetings.
- accept nominations and make appointments of delegates to the national convention of AMATYC and when applicable, NCTM.
- take charge of publicity, public relations, membership.
- perform all other duties that regularly pertain to the office.

The President-Elect shall:

- serve as a voting member of the Executive board.
- serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Article 9 – Governing Rules

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Revised, govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or By-Laws.

Article 10 – Amendment Procedure

Proposed amendments to this Constitution are presented by the membership and initiated by the Executive Board. The proposed amendments are then communicated to the membership at the Annual Meeting and in the newsletter or other official means of communication. Ratification shall require a two-thirds vote of approval by members in attendance at the subsequent Annual Meeting.

Article 11 – Affiliations

The Association shall be affiliated with the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, the Florida Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Florida Section of the Mathematical Association of America, the Florida Developmental Education Association, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Article 12 – Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved only after an amendment of this Constitution has been adopted that provides for the transfer of all unencumbered funds to an organization with similar purposes.

Article 13 – Adoption

This constitution shall be adopted when approved by the majority of the interested people attending the Spring, 1997 meeting.

Amendment 1 – Review Process

The constitution and by-laws shall be reviewed by the Executive Board every six years beginning in 2010.

BY-LAWS OF THE FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

Revised: October 2, 2009

Article 1 – Membership

Annual Membership

Any person becomes an annual member upon filling out the membership form and paying dues for the current membership year. The membership year shall begin July 1 each year. Only members of the Association may hold office, nominate candidates for office, nominate candidates for awards, receive awards, or serve on official committees.

Lifetime Membership

Any person becomes a lifetime member upon filling out the membership form and paying fifteen times the annual membership dues.

Article 2 – Duties of Officers

The President shall:

- preside at all meetings of the association, serve as Chairman of the Executive Board, and prepare the agenda for all Assembly and Board meetings.
- act as ex-officio member of all committees.
- Appoint one of the members of the Executive Board to serve in he/her place in case of temporary absence.
- organize and coordinate the program of the regular business meetings.
- accept nominations and make appointments of delegates to the AMATYC Annual Conference and when applicable, NCTM.
- take charge of publicity, public relations, membership.
- perform all other duties that regularly pertain to the office.

The President-Elect shall:



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The Past President shall:

a. serve as a member of the Executive Board.

b. serve as a member of the Nomination Committee

The Vice President-Programs shall:

a. be in charge of the FTYCMA portion of the Annual Meeting

b. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

c. Serve as a member of the Nominating Committee.

The Newsletter Editor shall:

a. create and distribute at least one edition of a newsletter each year.

b. notify members of Association meetings through the newsletter.

The Secretary shall:

a. be responsible for the official correspondence to the Association.

b. keep accurate permanent records of meetings of the Association and the Executive Board.

The Treasurer shall:

a. be in charge of records and funds of the Association.

b. be in charge of all receipts and disbursements of the Association and keep accurate records of the same.

c. make a financial report at each regular business meeting.

d. make an annual report, audited by a supervisory committee at the regular meeting.

e. keep an up-to-date file and mailing list of members and potential members.

Article 3 – Election Procedures

The nominating committee shall consist of the President-Elect (chair), the Past President, and two members appointed by the current President. The nominating committee shall select a slate of nominees for each office. Anyone desiring nomination for an office shall notify the Chair of the nominating committee in writing by mail and present to the chair a brief biographical sketch at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting. After taking nominations from the floor, a vote will be called for each office. The nominee receiving the plurality of voter from members present will be elected to office.

Article 4 – Amendment of the By-Laws

Amendments to the By-Laws may be proposed by the majority vote of the Annual Meeting. The proposed changes become part of the By-Laws by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of members responding by mail ballot by the deadline stated on the ballot.

Ballots will be prepared, distributed, and tallied by the Executive Board or it delegate(s).

a. serve as a voting member of the Executive board.

b. serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

The Past President shall:

a. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

b. serve as a member of the Nomination Committee.

The Vice President-Programs shall:

a. be in charge of the FTYCMA portion of the Annual Meeting

b. organize and coordinate scheduled events other than the regular business meeting.

c. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

The Secretary shall:

a. be responsible for the official correspondence to the Association.

b. keep accurate permanent records of meetings of the Association and the Executive Board.

c. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

The Treasurer shall:

a. be in charge of records and funds of the Association.

b. be in charge of all receipts and disbursements of the Association and keep accurate records of the same.

c. make a financial report at each regular business meeting.

d. make an annual report, audited by a supervisory committee at the regular meeting.

e. keep an up-to-date file and mailing list of members and potential members.

f. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

The Newsletter Editor shall:

a. create and distribute at least one edition of a newsletter each year.

b. notify members of Association meetings through the newsletter.

c. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

The Webmaster shall:

a. design, establish and maintain the official website for the Association.

b. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

The Membership Services Coordinator shall:

a. assist the President with plans to retain and increase the membership of the Association.

b. produce and present materials associated with the lifetime membership at the regular business meeting.

c. serve as a voting member of the Executive Board.

Article 3 – Election Procedures

The nominating committee shall consist of the President-Elect (chair), the Past President, and two members appointed by the current President. The nominating committee shall select a slate of nominees for each office. Anyone desiring nomination for an office shall notify the Chair of the nominating committee in writing at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting. After taking nominations from the floor, a vote will be called for each office. The nominee receiving the plurality of votes from members present will be elected to office.

Article 4 – Amendment of the By-Laws

Amendments to the By-Laws may be presented by the membership and accepted as a proposal by a simple majority vote of members in attendance at the Annual Meeting. Notification of the proposed changes to the By-Laws will be communicated in the newsletter or other official means of communication. Ratification shall require a simple majority vote of approval by members in attendance at the subsequent Annual Meeting.



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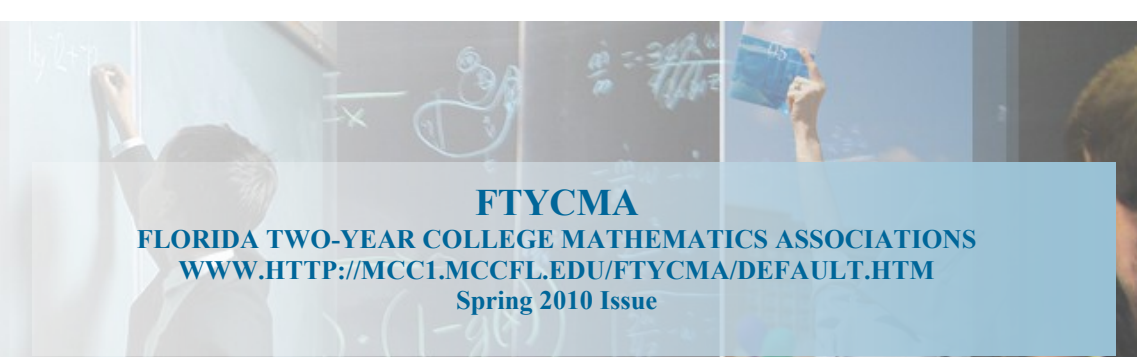
FTYCMA BOARD 2010 from left to right: C. Altay Özgener , Michael Jamison, Janette Campbell, Ryan Kasha, Bill Hemme, Don Ransford, Deepankar Rick Pal, Byron Dyce



**President elect Penny Morris—
Polk State College**



**FTYCMA Teaching Excellence Award 2010
Debbie Garrison (Valencia Community College)**



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AMATYC BOARD



AMATYC 2009 Las Vegas

Closing Session

The torch is passed. Outgoing President Rikki Blair and incoming President Rob Farinelli.



From left to right: Past FTYCMA President Don Ransford, President of FTYCMA Deepankar Rick Pal, FTYCMA President Elect Penny Morris with current MAA President David Bressoud



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Photos From AMATYC 2009 Las Vegas Annual National Meeting



AMATYC 2009 Las Vegas

Closing Session
New AMATYC President Rob Farinelli.



AMATYC 2009 Las Vegas

Saturday Breakfast
Probability experiments over breakfast.



Form Left to Right: Don Ransford,
Deepankar Rick Pal,
Current AMATYC President Rob Farinelli
and
Byron Dyce.

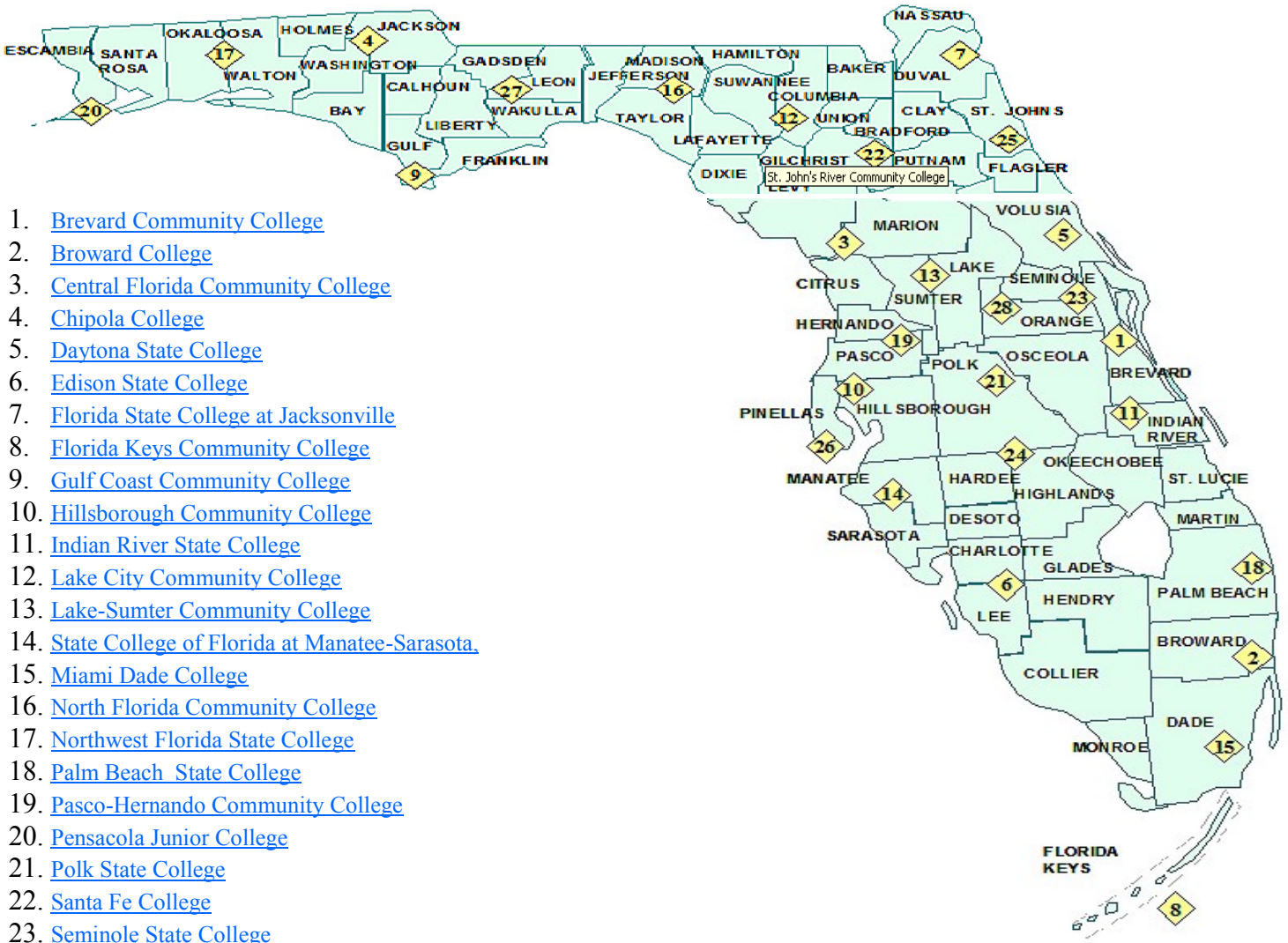


AMATYC 2009 Las Vegas

Opening Session
AMATYC President Rikki Blair welcomes attendees to Las Vegas.

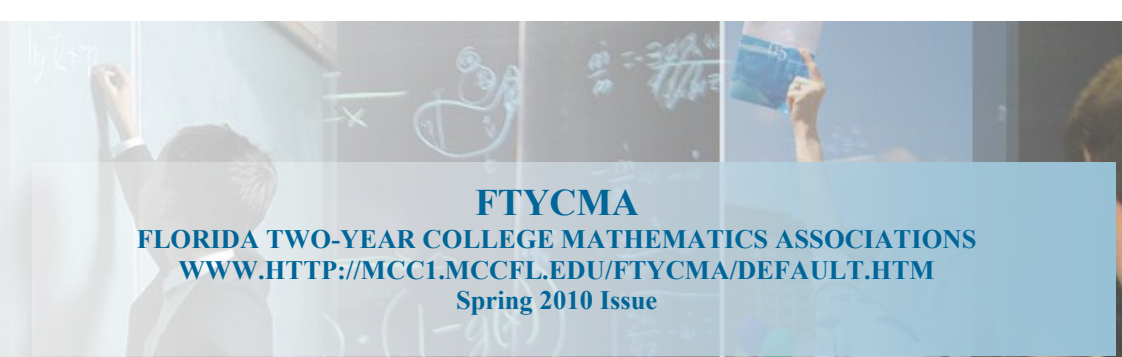


Florida Community Colleges with their new name changes.



1. [Brevard Community College](#)
2. [Broward College](#)
3. [Central Florida Community College](#)
4. [Chipola College](#)
5. [Daytona State College](#)
6. [Edison State College](#)
7. [Florida State College at Jacksonville](#)
8. [Florida Keys Community College](#)
9. [Gulf Coast Community College](#)
10. [Hillsborough Community College](#)
11. [Indian River State College](#)
12. [Lake City Community College](#)
13. [Lake-Sumter Community College](#)
14. [State College of Florida at Manatee-Sarasota](#)
15. [Miami Dade College](#)
16. [North Florida Community College](#)
17. [Northwest Florida State College](#)
18. [Palm Beach State College](#)
19. [Pasco-Hernando Community College](#)
20. [Pensacola Junior College](#)
21. [Polk State College](#)
22. [Santa Fe College](#)
23. [Seminole State College](#)
24. [South Florida Community College](#)
25. [St. John's River Community College](#)
26. [St. Petersburg College](#)
27. [Tallahassee Community College](#)
28. [Valencia Community College](#)

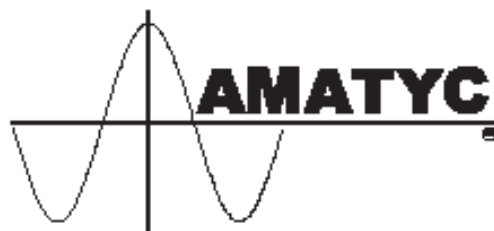
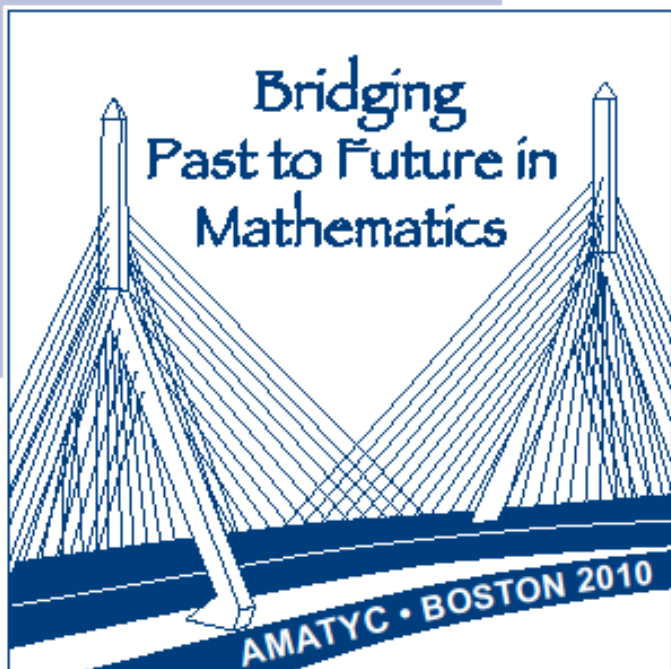
The map of Florida Community Colleges with their new name changes can be found
<http://www.fldoe.org/workforce/ccmap.asp>



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The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges



**36th Annual
 Conference**

Boston, Massachusetts

.....

November 11-14, 2010

.....

**Hosted by NEMATYC and
 the Northeast Region**

www.amatyc.org

Keynote and Breakfast Speakers

Javier Gomez-Calderon
 Penn State University
The Treasure of Polynomials

Low Lefton
 Georgia Institute of Technology
Infinity Bottles of Beer on the Wall

Featured Speakers

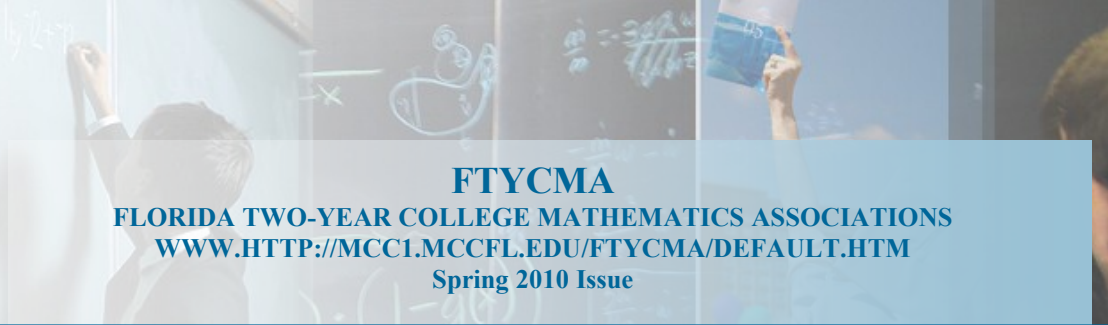
Becky Wai-Ling Packard
 Mount Holyoke College
Off-Track to On-Track in Two Minutes?
Faculty Facilitating Transfer

Kimberly R. Pearson
 Molecular Insight Pharmaceuticals
*Confidence Intervals for a Proportion in
 Introductory Statistics*

Symposium

Connecting Research to Practice in Two-Year College Mathematics
 Hosted by: Research in Mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges Committee

Opening Doors Through Mathematics



FTYCMA

FLORIDA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATIONS

[WWW.HTTP://MCC1.MCCFL.EDU/FTYCMA/DEFAULT.HTM](http://MCC1.MCCFL.EDU/FTYCMA/DEFAULT.HTM)

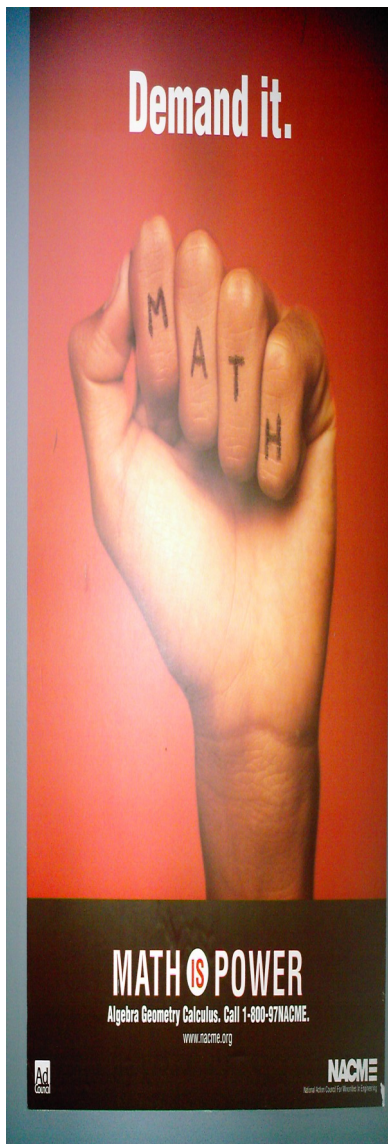
Spring 2010 Issue

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Community College Fact Book Library

The Fact Books have been moved to:

<http://www.fldoehub.org/CCTCMIS/c/Pages/default.aspx>



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 state)
- 1996 Frank Ward (Indian River CC)
- 1998 Lou Cleveland (Chipola College)
- 2000 Bill Palow (Miami-Dade College)
- 2002 Martha Goshaw (Seminole state)
- 2004 John Salak (Tallahassee CC)
- 2006 Dennis Runde (Manatee CC)
- 2008 Steven Grosteffon (Santa Fe CC)
- 2010 Debbie Garrison (Valencia 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
- 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 2009 (an odd-numbered year), it is time to consider a nominee for the Outstanding Service Award.

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 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.



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.
- Current cost of a lifetime membership is \$150.
Current cost of an annual membership is \$10.

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.



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▶ Maximize Your Time – Online PD Events...3



▶ Educator Essentials: TI Technology Survival Kit...3

Florida *Plugged-In* EDUCATOR

Much has been made over the past few years regarding the use of educational technology in an interactive classroom environment, and with such a wide range of available technology, and numerous theories on teaching methods, how do you know which way to go, which technology to buy?



It's A Really Cool Tool, But Why Do I Need it?

As an educator in the 21st Century, it is easy to understand the importance of incorporating technology into the classroom in order to prepare students for the future, but deciding *which* technology is appropriate remains a challenge.

I can remember, back in the early days of my teaching career, spending about \$100 of my own money to get, what I thought, was a really cool teacher's kit for teaching plate tectonics to my 8th grade Earth Science class. It was around day 2 of using the kit, that I experienced "lesson failure" and realized that this fancy kit was a dismal flop and that my students were *not* gaining an understanding of the concepts I was trying to teach. It was a modestly costly lesson for a 2nd year teacher.

In my 6th year of teaching, I had moved to a new school that had only been open a year. While completing an inventory of the science departments' equipment, I came across a very expensive computer-based weather station kit in one of the cabinets. The kit had a \$3500 price tag and a great deal of dust. When I looked into it, I discovered that my predecessor had ordered the kit with the intention of having it installed in the field behind the school. The idea was scrapped when it was discovered it would cost about \$10,000 to run the wires from the weather station to the school. And here's a bigger kicker, everything that this kit could do, outside of electronically sending the data to the computer, could have been done

by the students using handheld equipment that would have cost about \$30 (and that, with the extra fancy rain gauge). A very costly lesson no educator wants to get first hand.

So, how do you choose between the interactive whiteboard, or the Elmo, graphing calculators or software for the computer lab? And more importantly, how do you know that the technology purchased, is going to do what you need it to do? How do you avoid the pitfalls and keep from investing in a costly dust-catcher that eats up storage space?

Snare-proofing Your Technology Purchase

Before investing in that "cool tool", you need to have a plan and specific objectives for how the technology connects to your educational goals and the student outcomes you are seeking to gain. Technology lends itself especially well to interactive learning and instruction and when properly implemented, improves student learning and achievement. But it should never be in the driver's seat. Your purchase should be based on the learning and teaching needs of your students.

Educational technology should assist you in creating a high-achieving learning environment where your students are actively engaged in complex problem-solving, exploring ideas and issues, and where the classroom activities draw on students' culture, experiences, and knowledge.



Investing In The Future Tips For Buying The Right Tech Tools

Continued From Page 1

To assist you in developing a plan for technology, here are a few questions to consider before deciding on which technology would best meet your needs:

- ❖ How will the technology be used to provide and support a challenging curriculum through engaging instructional practices?
- ❖ What educational technology skills are included in your curriculum and how will teaching those skills enhance and support your broader instructional goals? (i.e., you don't go buy graphing calculators just because your curriculum guide includes graphing calculator skills – you buy them because they can help your students develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts).
- ❖ How will the technology be used to support changes in the roles and responsibilities of students, teachers, administrators, etc in order to achieve the outcomes you envision? (i.e., what about this tool will move students from passive to active learners and teachers from "sage-on-the-stage to facilitator and coach?")
- ❖ What is the learning curve going to be for this technology? Is it 12 o'clock flasher friendly and intuitive to use or do you need an advanced engineering degree? Can you see the methods and strategies for implementation readily?



- ❖ Does the technology fit within the school or districts' existing infrastructure and/or platform base? (i.e., your school is MAC based, but the technology you want to buy only works on a PC).
- ❖ What resources and support come with the technology? Are there additional fees for these resources and support? Is there a time-limit on the availability of these resources? Do they provide quality customer service and can you contact a "live" person?

Once you have a plan and goals in mind, how do you determine which tools are really going to meet those goals? What criteria should you look for?

Characteristics Of High-Performance Technology

- ❖ **Access**
 - Students/teachers are able to access rich resources within and beyond the school
 - Technology is easily and readily available
 - Students can actively communicate and collaborate in diverse ways
- ❖ **Operability**
 - Technology has the capacity to easily exchange data with, and connect to, other hardware and software in order to provide the greatest access for all students
 - Users can access a variety of peripheral devices
 - Users can move from one format or program to another easily.



- ❖ **Organization**
 - Users have the ability to add information resources
 - Information, products, and services can be contributed from multiple resources
 - Users can access programs to work in groups, build consensus, brainstorm, outline, develop plans, schedule meetings, and monitor and develop joint projects
- ❖ **Engagability**
 - The system is designed to provide access to tasks, data, and learning opportunities that stimulate thought and inquiry, including complex problems and cases, access to experts, peers, and other learners, rich media resources, and tools for interactive browsing, searching, and authoring
 - Users have the opportunity to plan, reflect, make decisions, experience the consequences of actions, change directions, and examine alternative solutions and assumptions
 - Software tools provide the learner with appropriate assistance at the appropriate time
- ❖ **Ease of Use**
 - Technology help is informative, clear, comprehensive, readily available, and context-specific
 - Users can access tools, information resources, experiences, and opportunities on demand and use them to solve problems, make decisions, and create products
 - Quality training and support to use the technology as well as to solve problems is readily available locally and from remote locations
 - Users have easy access to as much information as they need at different levels of sophistication
- ❖ **Functionality**
 - Students have opportunities to use a wide range of generic and context-specific tools
 - Technology provides opportunities to use a variety of media
 - Technology provides tools that promote programming and authoring skills as part of authentic tasks
 - Technology provides tools that facilitate the development of skills related to project design and implementation

In a truly interactive classroom, numerous technology pieces will be incorporated. Which components to invest in and when, is dependent upon the hierarchy of your goals, the performance level of the technologies in question, and lastly, by budget constraints.

When planning your technology purchases, remember to contact your Texas Instruments Educational Technology Consultant. Your ETC can assist you in developing a comprehensive plan that integrates the technology you have, the technology you need, and the resources, content and support necessary for successful implementation. With clear goals and a plan in hand, you can keep from blowing a \$100 on a "fancy" kit, when all you need is a box of graham crackers and some pudding, avoid investing in a \$3500 dust-catcher, and be ready to make a wise investment in the future.