



# Mathematics Association of Two Year Colleges of New Jersey

Fall Newsletter, 2016

Daniel Lopez, Editor

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# President's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a great semester! I look forward to seeing you at the fall meeting at **Hudson County Community College on October 1<sup>st</sup>**! We have a great set of presentations lined up for this meeting and the agenda is included here.

If you have never been to a MATYCNY meeting, I strongly encourage you to do so. I am sure that you will find the conference informative and inspiring. For instance, we have Ron Larson, author of several textbooks as our keynote speaker. In addition, our colleagues around the state will present on a variety of topics and Pearson, Hawks and Cengage will present their latest available technology to help us improve student success.

These are exciting times to be teaching mathematics at a two-year college. Come and be a part of an important voice for the math faculty at two-year colleges!

I hope to see you soon and wish you a wonderful and a productive year ahead!

Sincerely,

***Gabriela Sprague***

President, MATYCNY

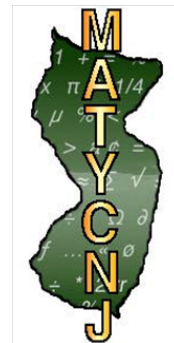




**MATYCNJ**

**Fall 2016 Meeting**

**Saturday, October 1, 2016**



**Hudson County Community College**



**70 Sip Ave  
Jersey City, NJ 07306**

See map and directions at end of newsletter for detailed information. Conference takes place in building B, located at 25 Journal Square.

**MATYCNJ**  
**Saturday, October 1, 2016**  
**Hudson County Community College**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:30 - 9:00	Registration/Breakfast Welcome to MATYCNJ Fall Meeting	Gabriela Sprague, President, MATYCNJ	<b>Student Lounge, Building B</b>
9:00 - 10:00	Keynote	Ron Larson, Ph.D	<b>Student Lounge, Building B</b>
10:00 -11:00	The Role of the First Levels of Developmental English and Math in Students' Success	Lynne E. Kowski, Ph.D. Raritan Valley Community College	<b>B207</b>
	The power of grouping symbols	Tariq Lagnaoui, Union County College	<b>B208</b>
	Community College Issues, Fall 2016  NEW Integrated Courses, Question-Authoring Technology, and more!	Yvonne A. Greenbaun, Rowan College at Gloucester County  Maria DeLucia, Middlesex County Community College	<b>B209</b>
		Jennifer Vaughan, Hawkes Learning Systems	
11:00 - 12:00	Exhibitions	Publishers	<b>B210</b>
12:00 - 12:45	Business Meeting/Lunch Break	Gabriela Sprague, President, MATYCNJ	<b>Student Lounge, Building B</b>
12:45 - 1:45	Changing Attitudes about STEM	Armindia Wey, Brookdale Community College	<b>B207</b>
	Designing Math: A Cengage Learning Event	Charles Mundy-Castle, Instructor, Central New Mexico CC	<b>B208</b>
	Getting the Most out of MyMathLab	Pearson	<b>B209</b>

	Complex Variables in Calc II – an independent study	Spyro Roubos, Brookdale Community College	<b>B210</b>
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**1. The Role of the First Levels of Developmental English and Math in Students’ Success**  
**Lynne E. Kowski, Ph.D., Raritan Valley Community College**

This study examined course outcomes in the first two levels of developmental math (MATH-015: Basic Mathematics and MATH-020: Elementary Algebra) to determine whether there is a difference in developmental math course pass rates for students in these courses who also require the first level of developmental English (ENGL-050: Introduction to College Reading and Composition I). Results for MATH-015 (Basic Mathematics) and MATH-020 (Elementary Algebra) were analyzed separately to allow for examination of differences in outcomes for students who require different levels of remediation in math. Statistical techniques of t-test/ANOVA were used in this study.

**2. The power of grouping symbols**  
**Professor Tariq Lagnaoui, Union County College**

The talk is a philosophical take on the meaning of grouping symbols. Given that we often struggle as mathematics educators to convince our students that mathematics in general is relevant to our everyday thought process, this talk will attempt to address that relevance through these mathematical symbols. It will explore how understanding the essence of grouping symbols can help make a link between mathematics and universal knowledge as it pertains to other disciplines such as the humanities. The motivation of my presentation stems from the fact that Mathematics is often seen as a subject that stands alone, in isolation from most other disciplines, which often enforces the sentiment of anxiety and misunderstanding seen in our students.

**3. Community College Issues, Fall 2016**  
**Yvonne A. Greenbaun, Rowan College at Gloucester County**  
**Maria DeLucia, Middlesex County Community College**

Placement testing and criteria, developmental education, teacher education, and legislation are all matters affecting community colleges and the Mathematics departments in particular. This session will present updates to these topics.

**4. NEW Integrated Courses, Question-Authoring Technology, and more!**  
**Hawks Learning Systems**

Hawkes Learning will present new co requisite courses aligned with STEM and non-STEM pathways, WCAG 2.0 Level AA accessibility conformance, and features released for the 2016-2017 academic year. Explore the newest innovation in question-authoring technologies to easily customize content: Question Builder. Win a \$25 Amazon gift card!

## **5. Changing Attitudes about STEM**

**Arminda Wey, Brookdale Community College**

Remember the anti-smoking and calorie counting commercials? What impact have they had? This session invites a discussion to bring about a collaborative campaign to improve attitudes, awareness and interest in math, science and technology among all students, and even the community at large.

Participants will hear and share ideas of engaging general education students in STEM activities. Participants will further be asked to put themselves in the place of the general education student and discuss the impact of exposure to and participation in interactive presentations.

## **6. Designing Math: A Cengage Learning Event**

**Charles Mundy-Castle, Instructor, Central New Mexico Community College**

Over the last three years, the Cengage Learning Mathematics & Statistics team interviewed, observed, and surveyed thousands of students and instructors to learn more about the unmet needs of our customers and how existing online programs stack up.

Traditionally, identifying the unmet needs of potential customers marks the end of the development story, but for MindTap, this was only the beginning. We continue involving students and instructors at every stage of the development and design process.

MindTap for Mathematics & Statistics is the result of this ongoing research. Please join us for an interactive session in which we will introduce you to what we have developed so far, and offer opportunities for you to share feedback and ask questions.

In designing this innovative digital solution, we aim to provide a new experience that is easy to use, maximizes your time, and keeps your students on task while delivering the right information when they need it most. We invite you to join us and help to build the experience you need in your classroom.

## **7. Getting the Most out of MyMathLab**

**Pearson**

Changes to higher education math courses are plentiful: student preparedness, course format, content delivery and approach are just a few trends that are driving these changes. MyMathLab has a wealth of resources, both new and tried-and-true that can help address these changes and student needs. New innovations such as the inclusion of workspace and Skillbuilder exercises are catching students at the moment they struggle, and media assignments, conceptual exercises and author-specific resources are helping students visualize the math and keep them engaged. Come spend a session with us to hear how you can better utilize the tools in MyMathLab to help your students get more out of MyMathLab!

## **8. Complex Variables in Calc II – an independent study**

**Spyro Roubos, Brookdale Community College**

In the spring, I served as an advisor to a student looking to do an independent study in mathematics. We agreed to explore complex variables in the scope of Calc II, which he had completed. He explored basic complex arithmetic, extended trigonometric and exponential functions, moving into line integrals, and ultimately certain real valued improper integrals that can be evaluated using complex variables. You will see the timing of topics and the depth covered.

# **MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES OF NEW JERSEY**

## **Business Meeting Minutes Brookdale Community College – April 9, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Meimee Persau, President. She welcomed all members and thanked the faculty of Brookdale Community College for hosting the event.

- A motion was passed to approve the minutes from the Fall 2015 meeting.
- Treasurer's Report for October 17, 2015 – April 9, 2016 was shared and approved.
- Meimee Persau thanked Mamta Vyas, Past-President, for her contributions (2013 – 2016) and presented her with a plaque.
  
- The day's presenters were thanked and recognized:
  - o Agnes Azzolino
  - o Maria DeLucia
  - o Sule Simsek
  - o Lee N. Collins
  - o Sally Mulvey
  - o Spyro Roubos
  - o Gabriela Sprague
  - o Sue Monroe
  - o Dr. Gitanjali Kundu
  - o Tarik Lagnaoui
  
- Meimee Persau announced all upcoming open positions (President-Elect, Vice-President North, Recording Secretary and Vice-President South) and elections were held as follows:
  - o Sally Mulvey from Brookdale Community College was elected as President-Elect for 2016-2017.
  - o Palma Benko from Passaic Community College was elected as VP North for 2016-2018.
  - o Ashley Tasy from Brookdale Community College was elected as VP South for 2016-2018.
  - o Karina Aliaga from Brookdale Community College was elected as Recording Secretary for 2016-2018.
  
- The following updates from the 2015 AMATYC Conference were shared:
  - o Dr. Mary DeHart finished her four year term as Chairperson of the Statistics Committee.
  - o A four year term for a President position is under consideration. Potentially, this term will include the first year as President-Elect, 2 years as President and one year as Past-President.
  - o The 2016 AMATYC Conference will take place in Denver, Colorado on November 17 – 20, 2016.
  - o Joining meetings with neighboring Associations (Pennsylvania and Delaware) are under consideration.

- MATYCNJ members were informed of the following programs:
  - o The Princeton Mid-Career Fellowship Program is now the Community College Faculty Program. This program allows instructors and administrators access to one or two courses per semester. The application deadline is May 1, 2016.
  - o The Morris Area Mathematics Alliance holds bi-annual conferences to exchange best practices in teaching.
- MATYCNJ Fall 2016 meeting does not currently have a host school. Please inform Gabriela Sprague if your school is interested in hosting the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karina Aliaga*

Recording Secretary



## Spring 2016 Meeting Pictures



← President Meimee Persau with presenters Gabi Sprague, Spyro Roubos & Sally Mulvey

Agnes Azzolino presented some engaging activities for use in precalculus classrooms  
→



← Lee Collins in action, presenting on Using Algebra to Analyze Power Series Functions

Meimee Persau thanks Nathalie Darden for presenting her *Build a Roller Coaster* activity  
→



← Yvonne Greenbaun and Maria DeLucia received certificates of appreciation for presenting on College Readiness

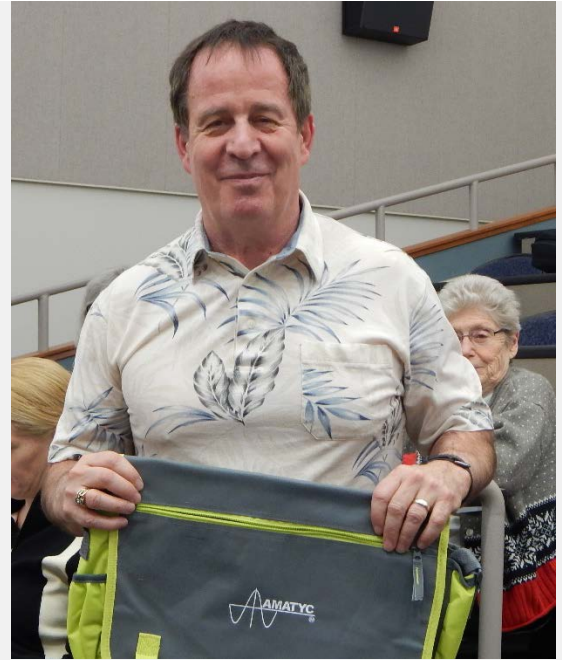
Sue Monroe presented on the implementation of a Nasa Space Grant, which she worked on with Dr. Gitanjali Kundu (not pictured) →







← Meimee Persau thanks Mamta Vyas for her service to MATYC NJ over the past three years.



Door prizes were awarded at the meeting: AMATYC messenger bags went to Octavio Paez Osuna of PCCC and Jeff Beckman of UCC (above). AMATYC tumblers were awarded to Mike Nolan and Deb Weeks of Brookdale (below).



# College News

## Bergen Community College

After 25 years of teaching mathematics at Bergen Community College, Dr. Corinne Kallman retired at the end of the spring semester. During her tenure at the College, she was an effective member of the Department, involved in numerous activities at the College, and active in state organizations. Dr. Kallman has relocated to North Carolina in order to be closer to her daughter and her daughter's family.

Over the summer, Professor Kaat Higham had the opportunity to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mathematics Education held in Hamburg, Germany. At the Conference, she was able to familiarize herself with recent trends in mathematics education worldwide.

Ruth Feigenbaum

## Brookdale Community College



This fall, Brookdale Community College welcomed three new full-time, tenure-track math faculty: Arianne Ross, Michael Nolan, and Samantha Doluweera.

After 23 years as a math professor, Kerry Behler retired last spring. We wish him a happy retirement. He will be missed by all.



The Math Lab at Brookdale Community College also welcomed a new full-time academic tutor, Ahmed Said.

Gabriela Sprague

## County College of Morris

Dr. Roger McCoach, CCM Mathematics Professor, again served as a judge for the Greater New York Math Fair in the spring of 2016. High school students from all over New York state compete in a mathematics research competition. Students win medals at the conclusion of the contest, and routinely cite this accomplishment on college applications and resumes.

Department Assistant Chairperson, Deborah Poetsch, received her tenure and promotion to Assistant Professor in August 2016.

The Women-in-STEM Club, advised by Mathematics Professors Deborah Poetsch, Kelly Fitzpatrick and Kathy Shuck, organized a trip into the city to visit Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum in the spring. Additionally, a grant from the Bayer USA Foundation enabled the Club to host several luncheons last year. These luncheons, designed to recruit and engage current and future CCM female students into STEM majors, hosted speakers from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics and STEM Club and invited attendees from the Morris County School of Technology, Gerrard Berman Day School, and CCM.

Professor Deanne Stigliano has continued her work to expand and enhance the Middle School Mathematics Endorsement program, an affordable, flexible and successful pathway for elementary mathematics teachers to acquire the 15 subject

matter credits needed to obtain a state endorsement to teach middle school math. Very positive feedback from the program's graduates have been received.

At the beginning of August 2016, Professor Lee Collins traveled to Columbus, Ohio to participate in the Mathematical Association of America's MathFest. Professor Collins presented, "Newton's Square Roots of Power Series Functions" in the General Contributed Paper Session titled, "Teaching Calculus".

Professor Meimee Persau has continued to serve as the Co-Chairperson of CCM's Self-Study Report Committee. The County College of Morris is part of the first cohort to use the new 7 Standards guideline, as dictated by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Its reaccreditation is due in 2018.

Meimee Persau

## Passaic County Community College

At PCCC, the Math department has experienced some staff changes. Dr. Octavio Paez-Osuna left to take a private sector position in Washington, DC. We wish him well in his new research endeavors.

We are very happy to welcome our newest faculty member, Daniela Kitanska. Daniela, who earned her BS and MS from Montclair State, comes to us from BCC where she served in a lecturer position.

More good news: Dr. Palma Benko has been promoted to Full Professor and Prof. Yon Kim to Associate Professor. Prof. Mousumi Chakrabarty completed her Ph.D. Congratulations to all!

In addition to the staff changes, the faculty has been busy. Marc Yeung, who was married this summer, has been involved in TANGO ( Training a new generation of Statistics Educators) and completed the NJ- NeXT fellow program. Fill Corpus, designed the Math curriculum for the Culinary School at Eva's Kitchen in Paterson, NJ. PCCC and WPU have agreed upon a new Science and Mathematics articulation agreement.

Janet Delaney

## Sussex County Community College

Dr. Barbara Glass will be retiring in December after a long career in mathematics education. Barbara began teaching as an adjunct at SCCC in 1987 and was hired as a full-time instructor in 1989.

Barbara earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Ursinus College and a master's degree in mathematics from Villanova University. She received her doctoral degree from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education in 2001. Barbara's doctoral research followed a group of community college liberal arts students as they explored problem solving. She documented the ways in which the students solved problems and justified their answers; and explored the question of whether students recognized the connection between two problems that are basically the same but are presented in different contexts. She also compared the problem solving strategies employed by college students to those employed by elementary school students who attempted the same problems.

Barbara has most enjoyed teaching Mathematical Concepts and Linear Algebra. She may return to SCCC to teach again as an adjunct some time in the future, but right now she is looking forward to relaxing in the pool at LA fitness, catching up on her reading and devoting more time to her music. Barbara enjoys playing the piano and now plans to join a community band and play her clarinet. She will also have more free time to pursue one of her favorite pastimes – camping.

SCCC thanks Barbara for her many years of service. We will miss her and wish her many happy and healthy years of retirement.

Mary DeHart



# MATYCNJ

*Treasurer's Report for October 17, 2015 through April 9, 2016*

**Balance as of October 17, 2015**

**\$6698.58**

**Income:**

Membership dues received at fall meeting	\$700.00
Vendor Payments	700.00

**Total Income**

**\$1400.00**

**Expenses:**

10/17/15	Palma Benko (Fall breakfast)	\$156.63
10/17/15	Meimee Persau (Fall breakfast)	65.82
2/15/16	Meimee Persau (AMATYC raffle)	13.19
2/15/16	Meimee Persau (AMATYC stipend)	350.00
2/15/16	Ruth Feigenbaum (AMATYC stipend)	250.00
3/14/16	Lenore Lerer (NJ filing fee 2015)	27.50
3/15/16	Lenore Lerer (Supplies)	20.32

**Total Expenses**

**(\$883.46 )**

**Balance as of April 9, 2016**

**\$ 7215.12**

Submitted by: Lenore Lerer, Treasurer

# 42nd AMATYC Annual Conference

Denver, Colorado  
November 17-20, 2016



Please consider attending this year's AMATYC Conference in Denver. The theme of the conference is *Math at a Mile High*.

Complete conference information can be found at <http://www.amatyc.org/?2016ConfHome>



## Directions to Hudson County Community College's Journal Square Campus in Jersey City

**Via Car:** New Jersey Turnpike to Exit 15E. At toll booths, bear right on to ramp and follow sign which reads, "Truck Route 1&9 North, Jersey City." Proceed over two bridges toward the intersection of Route 440. Bear left past the second bridge, take 1&9 North, proceed to second right onto Sip Avenue. Continue on Sip Avenue up the hill to the Journal Square section of Jersey City. The Administrative Building is located between Bergen & Summit Aves.

**Via PATH:** Take JSQ/33rd St. or WTC/Newark trains to Journal Square stop. Welcome Center is directly across from the escalator.

**Via New Jersey Transit Buses to Journal Square Transit Center:** 82, 83, 84, 86, 87, and 88.

### Campus Map & Parking Information



**\*Conference takes place in Building B.**

**\*Parking is available at 162 Sip Avenue (next to Building C/D on map above) and 119 Newkirk St. (next to Building I above)**



# Acknowledgements

**MATYCNJ would like to give special thanks to:**

- **Professor Gabi Sprague for providing the agenda for the Fall meeting**
- **Hudson County Community College for hosting the Fall meeting**
- **Ron Larson for providing the keynote address**
- **All the presenters – we would not have a meeting without you!**
- **Meimee Persau for providing the photos from the Spring meeting**

## MATYCNJ Spring 2017 Meeting

**Date & Location To Be Determined**

**Our Spring 2017 Meeting is still in need of a home. Please consider hosting the Spring Meeting at your institution.**



# Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges of New Jersey

## Individual Membership Form & Registration for the Fall 2016 Meeting

Please Print:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Academic Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

College \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

College Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Other Affiliations

MAA \_\_\_\_\_ AMATYC \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your name and college address in our membership list? \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form with \$10.00 membership fee (*includes conference registration*)  
to:

Professor Lenore Lerer  
Department of Mathematics  
Bergen Community College  
400 Paramus Road  
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

[llerer@bergen.edu](mailto:llerer@bergen.edu)