TexMATYC News

Fall 2009

www.texmatyc.org

President's Message

Let's Do the Math!

It's a new school year. Student enrollments in community colleges across Texas are booming. Dallas TV station WFAA reports that community college enrollments in the Dallas - Fort Worth metroplex are up between 5% and 20% over the 2008 fall semester.[i] Thus, community college math classes are brimming full of students with many diverse needs that create barriers to their success.

Large enrollments bring not only excitement but also substantial challenges. Understandably, community college enrollments reciprocate economic trends, so aid from the state treasury will not only be delayed but also inadequate. Most foundational gifts are targeted for institutional advancement; thus, many colleges will minimize much of this increase in instructional cost with part-time instructors.

Adjunct instructors are similar to full-time faculty in age, gender, academic qualifications, and overall job satisfaction. However, unlike full-time faculty, most of these instructors have 1) little or no office hours, 2) no job security, 3) unpopular schedules, and 4) minimal pay.[ii] The quality of their teaching is critical for so many students in developmental math and core math classes with large enrollments. While some colleges do an excellent job with making professional development and in-service available for part-time faculty, most have little or no interaction with full-time faculty. Fully embracing the philosophy of any one program is at best unlikely since many of these instructors teach for more than one college.

Paula Wilhite

As gatekeepers of the curriculum of mathematics, encourage your leaders to address these important concerns. Let's do the math together, working collaboratively with part-time and full-time colleagues, to provide the best instruction for student success in mathematics.

Together we will make a difference for all students!

Paula A. Wilhite
Northeast Texas Community College

i *WFAA.com, "Elevated Enrollment at Community Colleges," http://www.wfaa.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/education/stories/DN-commcollegebox_01met.ART.State.Edition2.4ba9b99.html.*
ii *Harbour, Clifford P., "Adjunct Faculty in Community Colleges: An Academic Administrator's Guide to Recruiting, Supporting, and Retaining Great Teachers", Community College Review, Fall 2005, http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0HCZ/is_1_33/ai_n15623958/?tag=content;col1.*

In This Issue

Texas Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. Affiliate to the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Solution Set

by Jeffrey M. Groah, Ph.D.

While writing a passage of a book, I wanted to produce the graph of a unique set—one that hadn't appeared in any other publication. The set should take the form of an inequality in two variables, generating a solution set represented by a region or regions in the plane. The graph should have vertical symmetry, so the inequality should only involve even functions of x. There should be some asymmetry in the y-direction, so the inequality should involve both even and odd functions of y. Finally, the solution set should have disconnected pieces, so a trigonometric function should be included. Upon plotting the inequality

$$x^2+y^2+2x^2 y^2 \sin(\pi n x^2 y)<1$$

where n=3, the following graph was generated:

While not exactly what I was looking for, the image was so striking that in my opinion it would be a shame if it were not communicated to others in some way, and not just to the readership of my book. Its significance is not so much in the mathematics as in the form. It illustrates the serendipitous use of both symmetry and asymmetry as a mathematician confronts those terms.

The image appears like a gothic demon, and so a proper presentation should be a painting on a dark and stormy background. With these as my parameters, I painted the following image:

The painting is titled *Solution Set*.

LSC-Tomball Bids Farewell to Three Superstars

Lone Star College-Tomball begins fall term 2009 without the services of three of its most energetic, productive and innovative employees due to their recent retirement from LSC: Dr. Peg Crider, Kitty Jay and Pat Stone. They will be sorely missed! A brief (and very incomplete) look at some of the activities of each of these superstars follows:

Peg Crider taught mathematics at LSC-Tomball for the last 20 years. She was an active member of TexMATYC as well as several national mathematics organizations. She received teaching excellence awards from LSC-Tomball (twice!) as well as TexMATYC. She was Mini Piper Stevens award nominee from LSC-Tomball. She spearheaded the writing of calculator lab manuals for introductory and intermediate algebra at LSC-Tomball, including setting up student math scholarships from the proceeds received from the sale of those manuals. Even in retirement she is very active, serving on the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Vertical Alignment Committee.

Pat Stone was a founding math faculty member at both LSC-Kingwood and LSC-Tomball. After serving as a math faculty member at Tomball for about 15 years (and receiving the Faculty Excellence award), she became a division dean until her recent retirement. She served on the steering committee of Achieving the Dream, was on the advisory board of the COLME grant and served on numerous other system-wide and Tomball committees. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm will be hard to replace!

Kitty Jay was the coordinator of the Math Center as well as a math tutor par excellence. She was a two-time recipient of the Staff Excellence award at LSC-Tomball. She initiated math study groups, independent study developmental math, numerous super math-topic handouts, managed the Extended Learning Center web page, coordinated the annual Learning Fair and was one of the main planners for our annual Winter Wonderland celebration.

Submitted by Roger Jay, Lone Star College-Tomball

Developmental Math Fun: Five Minutes of Fun with Numbers

Want to create a number palindrome?

a. Pick a 2, 3 or 4 digit number: 245
b. Then reverse the digits to create a new number: 542
c. Next add the two numbers: 245 + 542 = 787
d. You have created a number palindrome!
e. Sometimes you'll have to keep reversing and adding to create the palindrome.
f. 67 + 76 = 143 then 143 + 341 = 484

Submitted by Marilyn Larsen, College of the Mainland

Spot Light on TexMATYC Campus Representative

Anna Maria Mendiola has enjoyed teaching mathematics at Laredo Community College for the past 28 years. She holds BA and MS degrees in mathematics from Texas Woman's University and has done additional graduate work at Sam Houston State University and Texas A & M International University. A former Department Chair and Honors Coordinator, Ms. Mendiola has served on curriculum and transfer issues advisory committees of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as well as numerous committees on her campus. She credits AMATYC and TexMATYC with keeping her "connected" to colleagues and friends in the mathematics community across the country.

When she is not teaching, she enjoys traveling with her husband and adding to their collection of Snoopy and Peanuts gang memorabilia.

You may reach her at *amendiola@laredo.edu*.

Upcoming Conferences

TCCTA/TexMATYC Conference

March 4-6, 2010

Westin Galleria Hotel

Houston, Texas

www.tccta.org

CASP Conference 2009

A Towering Passion for Teaching and Learning

October 20 - 23, 2009

San Antonio, Texas

www.tade.org/Conference%20info/Conference2009/Conference09%20info.htm

35th AMATYC Annual Conference

Nov. 12-15, 2009
Las Vegas, Nevada

Register online:
www.AMATYC.org

AMATYC is working to keep your conference costs minimal! Make your Riviera Hotel reservations now at the reduced rate of only $89 for a single or double occupancy room!

Financial Report

TexMATYC Financial Report (Fall 2009)		
Description	Expenses	Income
Previous Balance		$7,509.26
Membership		$478.00
Workshops		$325.00
Interest		$16.28
Plaques	$45.20	
Web-Site	$20.00	
Balance		$8,263.34

Submitted by Habib Far, Lone Star College-Montgomery

TexMATYC Membership

Top Ten Institutions

Rank	College	Membership
1	Lone Star College-Montgomery	17
2	Collin County Community College	14
2	Lone Star College-CyFair	14
2	Lone Star College-Tomball	14
5	Austin Community College	13
6	North Texas Community College	12
7	Lamar Institute of Technology	11
8	Houston Community College-Southwest	10
8	Lone Star College-Kingwood	10
10	Cisco Junior College	9

Lifetime Members

Doo, Irene	Austin Community College
Rodi, Stephen	Austin Community College
Khoury, Raja	Collin County Community College
Dennis-Monzingo, Vivian	Eastfield College

Encourage your colleagues to join today! **Just have them fill out the membership form on the following page.**

TEXAS MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION
OF TWO-YEAR COLLEGES
MEMBERSHIP and INFORMATION SHEET

Date _____

NOTE: If you are a renewing member, just fill out your name and the membership box below.

TITLE (circle one) Dr. Mr. Ms.

NAME _____

COLLEGE _____

OFFICE PHONE ( ) _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP: New _____ Renewing _____
Dues: $5.00 per year x _____years = $ _____

Lifetime Membership $100.00 ___

Paid by _____ check(#_____) _____ cash

Please return this form to:

Habib Y. Far
Montgomery College
3200 College Park Drive
Conroe, TX 77384
(936) 273-7093
Habib.Y.Far@lonestar.edu

Please keep this receipt for your records.
Date: _____ Check Number _____
Total Dues Paid _____ For how many years? _____

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Visit us at www.TexMATYC.org

Q: What do you get if you divide the circumference of your jack-o-lantern by its diameter?

A: Pumpkin pie.

Got News?

If you know of any exciting news in Mathematics, have it published in your TexMATYC newsletter. Submit articles to:
Heather Gamber
heather.a.gamber@lonestar.edu