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Spring 2001

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



I hope your semester is off to a good start and that it is less hectic than mine. So far this year has been an active one for KAMATYC. Several members met at the Kansas City Regional Math Technology Expo in October and included a dinner with several members from MOMATYC. Plans are now being made for a joint meeting with MOMATYC in the spring of 2002. This should be a great event and a good time to meet many of your colleagues from Missouri. We will be sending out a call for speakers next fall so look for it. I am still trying to put together an e-mail list but need help. If I could get a volunteer to help set up some sort of list service for KAMATYC, I would appreciate it.

I would also like to congratulate Jeff Frost from Johnson County CC on being nominated for an AMATYC Outstanding Teaching Award for this year. There have been six nominations from our region so an award will be given (a minimum of 3 nominations were needed). These awards are given every two years and I would hope that KAMATYC would have at least one nomination each time. Perhaps in off years we could give a KAMATYC award and then send that person's name in to AMATYC. What do you think? If you are interested in serving on a committee to set up such an award please contact me. I hope this year will continue to be a good one for everyone.

Carl Anderson, President KAMATYC

FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT KENT CRAGHEAD

Greetings from Colby Community College! As educators, we are in the business of teaching students. We all have different styles of teaching that seem to work for some students. However, we should look for ways to improve our teaching abilities and classroom techniques to reach more of our students. There are numerous journals and web sites on the Internet with examples of great teaching techniques. But one of the greatest sources of help in this area is networking with our colleagues scattered across the state. We do have the opportunity to gather a few times each year.

This spring we will meet in conjunction with the Kansas section of MAA on March 30-31 in Emporia. We also have a regional meeting schedule for Saturday, April 28, in Dodge City. At that meeting, we will have 3-4 talks on mathematics.

Carole Bays will speak about her experience with setting up a web page for her classes as well as some practical applications in College Algebra using a graphing calculator. I will be speaking about my experience

teaching calculus from the reform calculus text created by the Harvard Consortium. Other speakers and topics have yet to be determined.

I would encourage each of you to make the effort to attend a meeting in the next year. It will be well worth the trip.

Kent Craghead

Good Words from AMATYC

Greetings to KAMATYC members,

There are a number of exciting initiatives underway at AMATYC in which you may be interested.

First, AMATYC received an NSF grant for a series of CRAFTY workshops which took place during Fall 2000 in several locations. The attention turns to identifying colleges with exemplary mathematics programs in emerging technologies such as biotechnology, information technology, and engineering technologies. A Call for Exemplary Programs has been issued. Up to ten Exemplary Programs will be in the spotlight at a national conference in September and included in a publication to be distributed to all TYC. Information and forms can be found on the website,

www.wake.tec.nc.us/~rlkimbal/CRAFTY.htm. The deadline for submission is April 16, 2001. Check it out. It is a great opportunity to gain recognition for the fine programs at TYC for mathematics in emerging technologies.

AMATYC is currently working on a grant proposal for professional development of new TYC college faculty. Titled "Experiences in Teaching at Two Year Colleges", it is modeled on Project NeXT. If funded, it will provide new TYC college mathematics faculty the opportunity to consider and explore the unique needs and instructional strategies of TYC college mathematics teaching. Nominations for the 2001 Input Awards are open until May 15, 2001. The purpose of this award to recognize exemplary mathematics programs at TYC that were revitalized using the AMATYC Standards, Crossroads in Mathematics. Three awards are offered with \$500 for the individual, an invitation to submit an article describing the program in the AMATYC Review, and an invitation to present a session at the 2002 AMATYC Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Further details on the Input Awards are available on the AMATYC website, <http://www.amatyc.org/>.

Remember, the 2001 AMATYC Conference is in Toronto, Ontario,

CANADA, November 15-18, 2001. Plan now to attend.

Sincerely,

Wanda Long

Central Region Vice-President,

AMATY

More from Wanda:

AMATYC Affiliate Presidents,

FYI: Please share with your affiliate members.

Sincerely,

Wanda Long

02/08/01 09:31 AM

Subject: CCJobsOnline.com

Greetings -

We wanted to remind you of *A New Career Site* designed specifically for YOU...

Community College Week, in partnership with GetaJobSOURCE Inc., a specialty career site development company, has developed and launched a comprehensive, state-of-the-art online career site www.ccjobsonline.com, dedicated to serving community, technical and junior colleges nationally. This site contains the most advanced Internet technical capabilities available and provides a long overdue, truly dedicated venue for these institutions to cost-effectively post job openings while reaching a national and targeted group of prospective employment candidates.

Among ccjobsonline's features and benefits to employers:

- >60-day graphics enhanced job postings for \$200 (up to 1200 words)
- >Fully automated, user-directed, online job posting
- >User-controlled job posting review/editing
- >Free links to e-mail and websites
- >Free photo uploads
- >Video and audio upload capability
- >Automatic search agents
- >Free resume posting for employment candidates

We also invite you to read our E-Zine, a compilation of both informative and entertaining articles and information at <http://ccweek.getajobsources.com/ezine/ezine.html>
Regards,

James Dick
CEO

KAMATYC Treasurer's Report

Here is the KAMATYC treasurer's report as of March 7, 2001:

We ended the year 1999 with \$2913.67.

In June 2000 there was a deposit of \$105.

Interest for the year 2000 was \$95.50.

We have since collected \$145 in dues and paid out \$26.70 for supplies for the November meeting and thus deposited \$118.30.

The total in the treasury is now \$3232.47

Respectfully submitted,
Donna S. Krichiver, treasurer

Nominations Needed

Nomination of Officers:

The offices of President elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two members of the Board of Directors will be up for election in the fall. Nominations are needed for all of these positions. If you are interested or want to nominate someone for any of these positions please contact Past President Jim Carlson (jcarlson@neosho.cc.ks.us)

or President Carl Anderson (canders@jccc.net)

******* Upcoming Meeting *******

The Kansas Section MAA Meeting 2001 at ESU

1) Keynote speaker:

We are fortunate this year to have Ed Burger from Williams College, Williamstown, MA, as keynote speaker at the Kansas Section MAA Meeting at ESU.

Dr Burger is a recipient of the 2001 Haimo Award, of the MAA, for distinguished college or university teaching. At the MAA/AMS meeting in New Orleans he gave a wonderful, inspiring talk as part of the award ceremony. Dr Burger is known for his many talks nation wide, his radio and TV appearances, and his recent books: "The Heart of Mathematics: An invitation to effective thinking" "Exploring the Number Jungle: A Journey into Diophantine Analysis" For more

information on our speaker visit his website at: eburger@williams.edu

2) Registration:

Included--as an attachment--you will find a registration form for the 2001 meeting. (Microsoft Word format)

Please fill out the form and mail (or email) to Ton Boerkoel or Boerkoet@emporia.edu

Dept of Math & CS
Emporia State University
Emporia, KS 66801

3) Schedule: As soon as the schedule is finalized it will be mailed/mailed to you. Generic schedule:

Friday night: Keynote address by Dr Ed Burger

Saturday: Talks, presentations and panel discussions throughout the day, with lunch and another talk by Dr Ed Burger.

4) Registration fee: \$40 (Lunch included. Fee can be paid in advance or at the meeting)

I am looking forward to seeing you in Emporia.

Ton Boerkoel

Dates to Remember

March 30-31 - MAA Kansas Section Meeting Emporia State University

Contact Ton Boerkoel (Boerkoet@esumail.emporia.edu)

April 28 - KAMATYC Meeting –

Dodge City C.C.

Contact Carol Bays at DCCC

October 5-6 - Kansas City Regional Math

Technology Expo - Rockhurst University,
K.C..MO

[Www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/~mathtechexpo/expo.html](http://www.kcmetro.cc.mo.us/~mathtechexpo/expo.html)

Timely Teaching Tips

Factoring Made Easier?

This article comes from the MichMATYC Times. This is an interesting

variation of the ac method for factoring quadratic trinomials. The ac method, as you may know, uses factors of the product of the leading coefficient and the constant term along with factoring by grouping.

$$6x^2 + 7x - 3$$

Find the product of a and c. For example the product is -18. Find two factors of this product that add to b.

The values 9 and -2 work in the example. Rewrite the middle term as the sum of the factors.

$$6x^2 + 9x - 2x - 3$$

Group the terms and factor.

$$(6x^2 + 9x) + (-2x - 3)$$

$$3x(2x + 3) - (2x + 3)$$

Complete the factorization of the trinomial.

$$(2x + 3)(3x - 1)$$

Students using this factoring method often find it difficult to keep the different factoring steps straight and may get confused with the signs involved.

Now consider the same problem done with a slight variation.

$$6x^2 + 7x - 3$$

Use ax as the first terms in two factors in the numerator of a fraction and place the value of a in the denominator.

$$\frac{(6x)(6x)}{6}$$

As before, find two factors of the product of a and c that add to b. Place these values as the second terms in the parentheses.

$$\frac{(6x+9)(6x-2)}{6}$$

Factor out the common factors from each parenthesis. These should cancel with the value of a that was placed in the denominator.

$$\frac{3(2x+3)2(3x-1)}{6}$$

$$(2x+3)(3x-1)$$

Your students may not appreciate how "slick" the approach really is, but why not give it a try the next time you are teaching factoring.

--Carl

This page is maintained by Jeff Frost, Jeff Lewis & Ron Palcic.