



**Fall 2016 Edition**

The official publication of the  
Maryland Mathematics Association  
of Two Year Colleges.

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**Have you registered yet?  
The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
AMATYC Conference  
November 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Denver, CO**

See [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org)

for further details and to register.



**MMATYC Who's Who in for 2016-2017**

**President:** Evan Evans ([president@mmatyc.org](mailto:president@mmatyc.org))

**2017 Spring Conference Chairpersons:**

Lisa Feinman ([lfeinman@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:lfeinman@ccbcmd.edu)) and Christine Mirbaha ([cmirbaha@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:cmirbaha@ccbcmd.edu))

**Past President:** Donna Sperry ([pastpresident@mmatyc.org](mailto:pastpresident@mmatyc.org))

**Treasurer:** Tom Crawford: ([treasurer@mmatyc.org](mailto:treasurer@mmatyc.org))

**Secretary:** Christine Mirbaha ([secretary@mmatyc.org](mailto:secretary@mmatyc.org))

**Affiliate Delegate to AMATYC:** Christine Mirbaha ([cmirbaha@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:cmirbaha@ccbcmd.edu))

**Alternate Affiliate Delegates:**

Sarah Miller ([smiller10@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:smiller10@ccbcmd.edu)) and Sarah Hand ([SarahH@csmd.edu](mailto:SarahH@csmd.edu))

**Newsletter Editor:** Sarah Miller ([smiller10@ccbcmd.edu](mailto:smiller10@ccbcmd.edu))

**Web Master:** Josiah Hartley ([webmaster@mmatyc.org](mailto:webmaster@mmatyc.org))

**Student Math League Coordinator:** Matt Lochman ([sml@amatyc.org](mailto:sml@amatyc.org))

**MMATYC - DEAM Liason:** Kylena Cross ([deam@mmatyc.org](mailto:deam@mmatyc.org))

**AMATYC's Mid-Atlantic Vice President:** Dan Fahringer ([amatycvp@mmatyc.org](mailto:amatycvp@mmatyc.org))

**Campus Representatives:**

- Anne Arundel Community College, Amber Rust, [aacc@mmatyc.org](mailto:aacc@mmatyc.org)
- Allegany College of Maryland, Steven Fairgrieve, [acm@mmatyc.org](mailto:acm@mmatyc.org)
- Baltimore City Community College, Sofya Kerzhner, [bccc@mmatyc.org](mailto:bccc@mmatyc.org)
- Carroll Community College, Maria Burness, [carrollcc@mmatyc.org](mailto:carrollcc@mmatyc.org)
- Cecil College, Brandy Bidy, [cecil@mmatyc.org](mailto:cecil@mmatyc.org)
- Chesapeake College, Vacant
- Community College of Baltimore County, Christine Mirbaha, [ccbcmd@mmatyc.org](mailto:ccbcmd@mmatyc.org)
- College of Southern Maryland, Sarah Hand, [csmd@mmatyc.org](mailto:csmd@mmatyc.org)
- Frederick Community College, Greg Coldren, [fcc@mmatyc.org](mailto:fcc@mmatyc.org)
- Garrett College, Tim Foster, [garrett@mmatyc.org](mailto:garrett@mmatyc.org)
- Hagerstown Community College, Tom Crawford, [hcc@mmatyc.org](mailto:hcc@mmatyc.org)
- Harford Community College, Deborah Wrobel, [harford@mmatyc.org](mailto:harford@mmatyc.org)
- Howard Community College, Michael Long, [howard@mmatyc.org](mailto:howard@mmatyc.org)
- Montgomery College, Irene Moshesh & Ben Nicholson, [montgomery@mmatyc.org](mailto:montgomery@mmatyc.org)
- Prince George Community College, Roxanne King & Julie Gordan, [pgcc@mmatyc.org](mailto:pgcc@mmatyc.org)
- Wor-Wic Community College, Mary Lou Townsend, [worwic@mmatyc.org](mailto:worwic@mmatyc.org)

## LOOKING BACK:

Thanks to **Lisa Feinman, Christine Mirbaha, and Sarah Miller**, MMATYC's 2016 Spring Conference Coordinators and thanks also to **The Community College of Baltimore County** for hosting this event. Keynote speaker Nancy Shapiro, Associate Vice Chancellor for Education and director of Maryland's P-20 Partnership for Teaching and Learning, spoke to the group about changes to MD's higher education math curriculum including MD's First in the World Mathematics Reform Initiative which will introduce a new higher education statistics curriculum for student in select majors in MD. In addition, informative and inspiring presentations were given by **Mike Long, Brandy Bidy, Melissa D'Agostino, Carol Howald, Lisa Timmons, Mary Lou Townsend, Besty McCall, Peter Joyce, Sudha Kunhikrishnan, and Sofya Kerzhner**. The day was a wonderful learning and sharing experience for all.

## LOOKING FORWARD:

- 1) **42<sup>th</sup> Annual AMATYC Conference \*\*\* November 17-20, 2016.**  
Denver, Colorado.  
See [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org) for further details and to register.
- 2) **27th Annual AFACCT Conference \*\*\* January 5 & 6, 2017.**  
Harford Community College, Bel Air, Maryland.  
Visit <http://www.afacct.csm.edu/> for further details and to register.  
Proposals are currently being accepted.  
Deadline for proposals is October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 3) **MMATYC's Spring 2016 Conference \*\*\* June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**  
The Community College of Baltimore County – Owings Mills  
Details will be forthcoming soon to: [www.mmatyc.org](http://www.mmatyc.org)

## Quotable

*The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.*  
-Eric Hoffer

*I'm a mathematical optimist: I deal only with positive integers.*  
-Tendai Chitewere

## Fun From The Files

**What is the largest wooden cube that can pass through another cube with one-inch sides?**

## UPCOMING AMATYC WEBINARS

visit: <https://amatyc.site-ym.com/> to register.

If I Knew Then What I Know Now:

A three-part series by AMATYC's founding president Herb Gross.

Part One: Have You Seen a Number?	10/13/2016	3:00 PM
Part Two: The Game of Algebra.	11/3/2016	3:00 PM
Part Three: Implementing the Vision	12/1/2016	3:00 PM

## Denver's Friday Night Ignite Event!

The Innovative Teaching & Learning Committee (ITLC) is once again sponsoring the Ignite Event at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel, Friday evening, November 18, from 6-8 pm. These are fun and fast-paced Web 2.0 events where slides are automatically advanced every 15 seconds and speakers have exactly five minutes to share their passion! Audience participation is encouraged. E-mail your idea to Fred Feldon ([ffeldon@coastline.edu](mailto:ffeldon@coastline.edu)) by October 15th to be considered.

## AMATYC Historian Position Available



AMATYC is searching for a leader with an interest in documenting the history of the organization. The five-year term is January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2021. Click here for more information.

Applications will be reviewed beginning November 1, 2016; the position will be open until filled. To apply, send a letter of interest and a resume which highlights the candidate's experience, if any, as an historian, and previous leadership role(s) with AMATYC or an AMATYC affiliate, to Mark Harbison, Search Committee Chair, at [Mark.Harbison@Losrios.edu](mailto:Mark.Harbison@Losrios.edu). Questions about the position may be addressed to Mark or the AMATYC Office at [amatyc@amatyc.org](mailto:amatyc@amatyc.org).

## Get Involved

AMATYC published CROSSROADS IN MATHEMATICS, Standards for Introductory College Mathematics Before Calculus in 1995. In 2006, Beyond Crossroads; Implementing Mathematics Standards in the First Two Years of College was published. Last year, AMATYC began investigating the creation of a new document that would build on the two previous publications, revisiting the standards and recommendations in each, and creating a platform for a living document that will be updated annually with links to exemplary projects and address new and even future trends and issues. This column requests your assistance as we create this new living document.

1. If your department and/or institution has a program that has been effective at helping students or faculty achieve their goals, a short description of that program and its outcomes is requested.
2. If your department and/or institution has implemented a project that has improved student support services, created curriculum pathways to help a greater percentage of students achieve their goals more efficiently, implemented effective professional development for new and/or continuing faculty, implemented programs that assist adjuncts to be better teachers and/or be a more productive member of the profession, improved the use of classroom and/or program assessment, redesigned courses and/or curriculum to meet the needs of the workplace, and/or redesigned courses and/or curriculum to match recommendations from standards and/or recommendations from other professional associations, a short description of your success is requested.

amatyc.request@gmail.com

In any response, please provide your contact information (phone, college, email).

## New Grading Policies for K-12 in MD

Recent changes in grading policies in many of MD's school districts were reported in the Washington Post's July 6, 2016 article "Is it becoming too hard for students to fail in school?"

Both Maryland's Statewide Math Group (representing each of Maryland's public colleges and universities), as well as a substantial number of local high school mathematics teachers with whom we have interacted during the summer of 2016, have expressed great concern about institutionalized grade inflation. They also emphasize that holding students in grades K-12 with consistently realistic, high standards supports student learning and contributes to their success in college.

As a result, the Statewide Math Group strongly recommended that MD's Higher Education community make a joint statement recommending to Maryland public school districts to reconsider any new grade-inflation education policies in order to minimize the negative impact on students who plan to attend college.

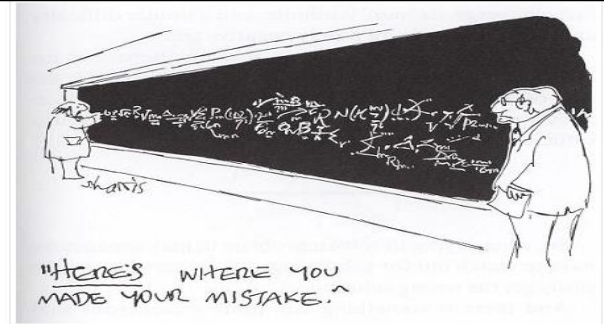
## **HAVE you considered joining an AMATYC Committee or ANET?**

Committees: Developmental Mathematics, Innovative Teaching and Learning, Mathematics and its Application for Careers, Statistics, Mathematics Intensive/College Mathematics, Placement/Assessment, Teacher Preparation, Research in Mathematics Education for Two-Year Colleges

ANETS: Division/Department Leadership, International Mathematics Adjunct Faculty Issues, Mathematics for Liberal Arts

### Solution to the Fun From the Files Problem

Today, we know that a cube with a side length of 1.060660... inches (or smaller) can pass through a cube with one-inch sides. This solution was found by mathematician Pieter Nieuwland and published in 1816. If you hold a cube so that one corner points towards you, you'll see a regular hexagon. The largest square that will squeeze through a cube has a face that can be contained within this hexagon.



Sidney Harris

## MMATYC Treasurer's Report - Spring, 2016

Beginning Balance	5/2/2016		\$ 6,642.05
Spring MMATYC Conference			
	Income	\$ 1,885.32	\$ 8,527.37
	Expenses	\$ 1,142.59	\$ 7,384.78
Math League Competition			
	Expenses	\$ 189.20	\$ 7,195.58
Bank Fees			
	Expenses	\$ 5.50	\$ 7,190.08
Ending Balance	6/9/2016		\$ 7,190.08