

Volume 1, Issue 4

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# Mathematics Dept.

EDITOR: IRENE A. SANCINITO

## Math Department Meeting Notes

**Date:** December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Time:** 1:00PM

**Room:** B 206A

**In Attendance:** Shirley MacKenzie, Joanne Manville, Yvette Straughter, Irene Sancinito, Adele Hamblett, Ted Carlson, Y. Venkat Rao, Barbara Ton Ferullo, Kiruba Murugaiah, Christian Agunwamba, Chris Watson, Len Mhalaba, Katherine Gustafson

**Conducted by:** Y. Venkat Rao

**Minutes Recorded by:** Kiruba Murugaiah

**Agenda:**

1. Book Orders
2. LSAMP Grant (UMass Boston)
3. Proposed College Algebra Sequence
4. Other Business
5. Announcement

**Handouts:** LSAMP Handout  
Proposed College Algebra Sequence  
Explorations in College Algebra  
Book order forms

**Discussions:**

1. **Book Orders** are due by next Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> to Y.V. Rao. Copies will be sent to the Instructor, Department and the original will be given to the Dean's office. The Dean's office will forward it on to the Bookstore.

Cont. p. 3

## Meet the Faculty

Erin Reilly has been teaching mathematics at Everett High School for six years. She did her undergraduate degree in mathematics at UMASS Amherst. She has an Ed. M. in Mathematics from Boston University and a MAT in Mathematics from Salem State. Erin joined Bunker Hill Community College in fall 2006. She teaches Fundamentals of Math, Fundamentals of Algebra and College Algebra. She enjoys teaching at Bunker Hill Community College as an Adjunct Faculty.

Her references who recommended her for the adjunct position say:

"The goals and objectives that she sets for her students during lessons are challenging and realistic.



Cont. p. 4

Erin Reilly

# Editor's Notes

If you have any suggestions for an article or have a story you would like published, please forward it to Irene A. Sancinito, Mathematics Department at BHCC or send it to [isancinito@bhcc.mass.edu](mailto:isancinito@bhcc.mass.edu). Electronic format preferred.

If you would like to submit an article for, "Meet the Faculty", please do so in electronic form. I will publish one per month on a first come, first published basis.

*The deadline for the February issue is February 15, 2008.*

Visit our new Mathematics website (part of the BHCC website):

<http://www.bhcc.mass.edu/math>



## From the Department Chair

Kiruba Murugaiah completed her term as Developmental Math Coordinator. Thank you for an excellent job in compiling the final report. Copies of the final report are available from the Department Chair.

Yvette Straughter will assume the responsibility of Developmental Math Coordinator starting in spring 08. If you have any questions please email her at: [ystraughter@bhcc.mass.edu](mailto:ystraughter@bhcc.mass.edu).

We have two new members of our Adjunct Faculty. They are: Erin V. Spracklin and Lukas C. Skoog. They assume their respective teaching responsibilities in spring 08.

Recently President Mary Fifield formed a climate commitment committee and the entire college community is urged to engage in this campaign. As a part of this, we urge you to turn off all lights in the lecture rooms if there is no other class coming in after your lecture. Also, please turn off all smart room equipment. Go green Math Department.



# Math Department Meeting Notes (cont.)

## 1. Katherine Gustafson on LSAMP Grant

- ✦ The goal of the grant is to substantially increase students pursuing degrees in STEM programs and increase number of students from underrepresented groups in these fields.
- ✦ Trying to offer facilitated study groups for students taking gateway math courses
- ✦ Pilot program is Calculus for all STEM programs
- ✦ Found adjunct Greg Field who teaches in Physics department and Calculus at other locations. Started Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. Runs facilitated study groups on M/W from 10 to 11 and Friday in Library. 6 to 8 students attend regularly. Rene, Ted and Samer's students attend this program.
- ✦ Students and facilitator will complete a survey at the end of the program for evaluation purposes.
- ✦ Greg is willing to participate again for next semester.
- ✦ Students have approached Katherine for facilitated study groups for Precalculus but since not all instructors use the same text book this might be a challenge.
- ✦ Also finding classroom space is a challenge.
- ✦ Katherine will investigate if there is funding for more study groups.

We need to find a good facilitator. Vikram Sagar could be a possible facilitator.

## Proposed College Algebra Sequence

Rene & Kiruba presented the new proposal to the Department. The initial proposal addressed issues in the Developmental math sequence. The committee worked hard to present their case. This proposal addresses the gap between MAT 095 and MAT 195. The committee consisting of Irene, Kiruba, Adele and Y.V. Rao presented a proposal to the Dean and VP which consisted of 4 developmental courses. They were not in favor of this change so we revisited the problem and now propose two college level courses: MAT 194 College Algebra for Liberal Art programs and MAT 195 College Algebra for STEM programs. This is an initial proposal which needs a lot of fine tuning, the names will change and possibly some of the topics covered.

## **Department responses to the proposal:**

- good idea to get the class to be more homogeneous. At UMass they have a similar tracking. College Algebra is a prep course for students to take the placement test; suggests that even the newly proposed MAT 195 might contain too many objectives.
- likes the idea; agrees that the newly proposed MAT 195 might contain too much; proposes replacing Conic Sections with Exponential and Logarithms for MAT 194.
- likes the idea. Proposes that MAT 194 be a topics course with applications rather than a "watered down" college algebra. With the developmental sequence the plan is to analyze the data and know if something is working. If we create a topics based course covering those objectives of 195 we will be satisfying critical thinking requirements and writing across the curriculum. The proposal should be submitted separately from that for the Developmental courses so as to keep everything simple and also the developmental course proposal is more complete and is ready for the Curriculum Committee and this new proposal will not be ready in time. Get data or information on transferability and do a survey of students on whether Mat 195 is their last math course or not. Give curriculum committee a heads up.
- Suffolk does not accept our college algebra for any program. Jimmy Roberts is investigating which schools accept our college algebra. Looked at 50 to 75 websites till 2AM and college algebra is loaded with applications, growth, decay etc.
- reservation is that if people go through the new developmental sequence there wouldn't be such a gap between MAT 095 and Mat 195 after all. Philosophically opposed to tracking but concedes with the proposal provided the course names don't suggest tracking.
- general reaction is that we need a course that is topics based. She presented a Umass Boston Model where the textbook is titled Explorations in College Algebra
- no problems with the new proposal as long as there are no more than 3 developmental courses.
- supports the idea; agrees with Chris in regards to replacing Conics with Logs; not a good idea to present as a joint proposal. Give Paula Veluto a heads up on the upcoming proposal.

Cont. p. 4

# Math Department Meeting Notes (cont.)

- because I don't teach 095, 195, statistics, can someone tell me what there is to be gained in creating this new 194?
- current college algebra is designed exclusively to prepare students for the next level. The applications/models course will help them if this course is the last one for them.

## Other Business

- Need to develop a marketing campaign for Finite Math and Contemporary Math.
- Need to develop a special course for Early Childhood students per Board of Higher Ed requirement.
- Faculty Breakfast at S&S Thursday December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Math Lab Coordinator search committee will be meeting this Thursday. 20 out of 34 candidates were disqualified by Molly Ambrose for Math Lab Coordinator.
- Software is not ordered yet for the lab. Chairperson is awaiting other software requests.

## Announcement

Yvette Straughter will be the new Developmental Math Coordinator for Spring 2008. Kiruba will pass on any documents from her time as Developmental Math Coordinator to her.

# Meet the Faculty (cont.)

Ms. Reilly has an excellent rapport with the students in Everett, as evidenced by the large number of students who sit and talk to her after school, in her classroom. I have found Erin Reilly to be a person who has both outstanding teaching methods and outstanding character traits. Ms. Reilly is a true asset to Everett High School both as a teacher and a person".

Her hobbies are playing soccer, soft ball, and hockey.

Welcome aboard Erin; we are proud to have you as an Adjunct Faculty Member.

Y. Venkat Rao

