

Math Department Meeting Notes

Date: March 6th, 2008

Time: 1:00PM

Room: B 206A

In Attendance: Yvette Straughter, Adele Hamblett, Y. Venkat Rao, Barbara Ton Ferullo, Kiruba Murugaiah, Samer Darwish, Shirley MacKenzie, Ted Carlson, Christian Agunwamba, Amparo Hernandez-Folch, Chris Watson, Mike Puopolo, Diane Puopolo, Bill Sakamoto, Deborah Barrett, Julie Lambert, Abdul Kalokoh, Katherine Gustafson

Conducted by: Y. Venkat Rao

Minutes Recorded by: Kiruba Murugaiah

Agenda:

1. Review and approve minutes from February 8th meeting
2. Presentation by Mike Puopolo on A+dvancer followed by discussion
3. Developmental Math Sequence Presentation by Ted Carlson
4. Introduction of Math Computer Lab Coordinator Louis Gregoire
5. Review of Textbooks for MAT 091 and MAT 092 courses
6. Other business

Handouts:

PowerPoint by Mike Puopolo on A*dvancer

Folder from Chairperson containing:

Instructions on downloading Math Type

Gen Ed Summit Brief Report from Tim McLaughlin

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Meet the Faculty



As a young mother of four, with only waitressing experience, Geraldine M. Curley (Geri) returned to school in 1976, when her marriage ended. At Bunker Hill Community College, she began a long relationship with the Center for Self Directed Learning (then called the Learning Center) as a student in the Sim Soc (Simulated Society) program. Excellent advising (credited to long time faculty member, Ted Carlson) helped Geri transfer to Tufts University as a junior with all BHCC credits accepted! Ted's excellent advising made her stress to her students constantly, the importance of meeting with their advisors on a regular basis. Of course, she adds, "...had it not been for Bob Leonard (a retired BHCC faculty member) who insisted I apply to Tufts University and nagged me until I did," perhaps Tufts would not have been in her future.

Since it was quite some time since she had been in school, Geri began her math courses with Fundamentals of Mathematics (MAT090). However, it did not take her long to

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Math Department Meeting Notes (cont.)

Copy of proposal for course modification of CIT 091 and CIT 094

Copy of email from Katherine Gustafson on Summer LSAMP Pilot (study groups for Calculus and Precalculus)

Discussions:

1. Review and approve minutes from February 8th meeting

We did not accomplish this agenda item.

2. Presentation by Mike Puopolo on A+dvancer followed by discussion

Mike Puopolo described a project to implement A+dvancer which begun since last semester using a Bay Tech grant from the NSF. The goal is to take high school students with excellent technical skills and necessary help to prep for the Accuplacer to place into higher levels of developmental math or English. Worked closely with Pearson and Addison to fix the disconnect between MCAS and Accuplacer. There is a pilot version of this software A+dvancer set up with Madison Park High school. There were also several presentations at the NADE conference that confirmed the use of A+dvancer. The software is a diagnostic test tied to Accuplacer; it is browser based with no plug-ins; not designed to replace developmental courses; it is a test preparatory tool; there are 30 questions and no time limit; gives students prescribed series of lesson plans. It is being used at Miami Dade College for over 3 years successfully. It could be very useful in workforce development. Possible usage at BHCC is being investigated. One model suggested was that students take the Accuplacer, then take the test prep under instructor supervision and retake the Accuplacer. Deborah Barrett noted that there has been positive feedback amongst nationwide Accuplacer administrators. The math department was given this informational session for feedback and to solicit collaboration. It was suggested that *Achieving the Dream* funds be used to create a cohort group of students to test the product with. Ted volunteered to work with Deb to identify this cohort group.

3. Developmental Math Sequence Presentation by Ted Carlson

Ted reported on the inspiring *Achieving the Dream* conference. The conference stressed on the importance of data collection and outcomes to make informed decisions. Data is not intended to be used against faculty performance. He also presented on the remaining tasks to be completed for approval of the developmental math sequence by the President.

4. Introduction of Math Computer Lab Coordinator Louis Gregoire

Louis reported that the math lab will be open in the afternoons. He said that in his experience he has noted that most students struggling with basic math also have a fear of computers and he hopes to install a variety of useful math software for such students to overcome their fears. He felt that the NSF Math software is very useful. He hopes to start 30 min to 1 hour long seminars 2 or 3 times a week to train students on this software. He needs to be informed about the 090 exit testing so as to help with the process this semester. Also, he will investigate the usefulness of Red Canyon to track student usage of the lab and also communicate with Chris Carter on the different strategies used by the Language Lab.

5. Review of Textbooks for MAT 091 and MAT 092 courses

This agenda item was not address due to time shortage

6. Other business

It was suggested by the Dean and communicated by the Chairperson that faculty no use 090 Exit Testing this semester due to difficulties in man power to proctor exams and the change in developmental sequences. Some members of the department opposed this suggestion as it will be contradictory to the contents of their course policies. It was decided that the Chairperson will hire necessary proctors to facilitate the testing.

Katherine Gustafson presented a summary of LSAMP and also communicated the need for Learning Community proposals for the Engaged Campus Initiative. She mentioned the STEM Learning Community proposal from Joanne Manville and Elizabeth Dunphy.

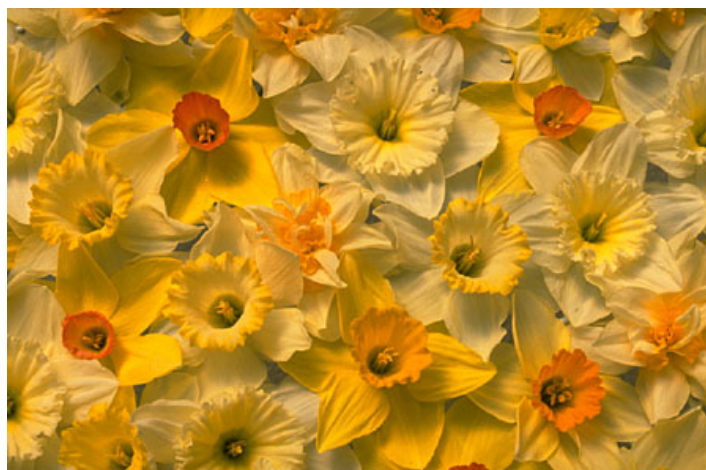


Notes from the Department Chair

Samuel Awumi, a graduate of Bunker Hill Community College and presently an undergraduate student at Bentley College has come on board as Lab Assistant for Math Computer Lab. He will be covering the lab over the weekends. His hours are 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday. Welcome aboard Samuel.

A text book summit is being organized by Math Department on April 10, 2008 from 12:00 Noon to 04:00 PM in Math Computer Lab (M 103). The purpose of this summit is to review the text books and associated software that are available for Developmental Math Courses. The Department will then make a final decision to adopt text books for these courses.

Y. Venkat Rao



Editor's Notes

The newsletter will not be published until the Mathematics Department minutes are approved by the department. Therefore, the newsletter will not be published until the second week of the following month.

If you have any suggestions for an article or have a story you would like published, please forward it to Irene A. Sancinino, Mathematics Department at BHCC or send it to isancinino@bhcc.mass.edu. Electronic format preferred.

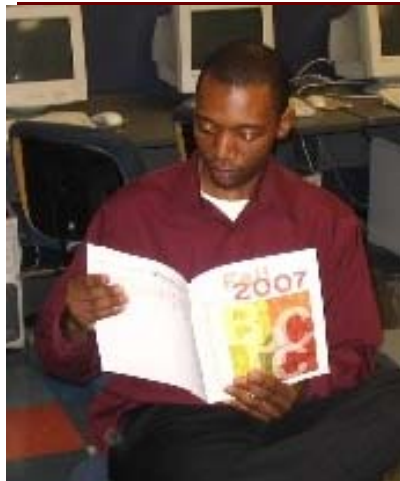
If you would like to submit an article for, "Meet the Faculty", please do so in electronic form. I will publish one per month on a first come, first published basis.

The deadline for the April issue is April 25, 2008.

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

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

Mathematics Computer Lab



Louis Gregoire

Hours of Operation for Spring 2008 Semester

Monday: 11:30 am—8:30 pm (Louis Gregoire)

Tuesday: 12:30 pm—4:30 pm (Louis Gregoire)

Wednesday: 11:30 am—5:00 pm (Louis Gregoire)

Thursday: 12:30 pm—8:30 pm (Louis Gregoire)

Friday: 11:30 am—8:30 pm (Louis Gregoire)

Saturday: 10:00 am—4:00 pm (Samuel Awumi)

Sunday: 10:00 am—4:00 pm (Samuel Awumi)

Meet the Faculty (cont.)

regain her skills and she soon began algebra. Her love of algebra soon was revived and after completing several additional math courses, Geri began to tutor in the CSDL. She continued to tutor at BHCC even after transferring to Tufts. Soon Geri merged two major interests – Psychology and Math – specifically math anxiety and women. Once Geri graduated from Tufts in 1981, she worked at BHCC in the testing room in the CSDL. For 27 years, Geri has been an integral part of the CSDL facilitating math and psychology courses. We in the Math Department, are indebted to Geri for being the facilitator of MAT085.

Upon Geri's graduation from Cambridge College with her master's degree, she became Math Coordinator in the CSDL, having been promoted by Bill Sakamoto.

Another side of Geri Curley is her involvement with our local MCCC union. From walking in the 1980's DCE picket line to a variety of union positions, her hard work was acknowledged recently by the MCCC which named a meeting room in her honor. Among Geri's committee involvements are MCCC Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Finance Committee, Nominations and Elections Committee, to name a few. Geri also served on the New Business Item Committee for the NEA.

Of her retirement, Geri comments, "I miss the people and yes, the students – but not the alarm clock". As for Geri being Geri, she adds, "Get involved, people! (being involved) gives you such a feeling of satisfaction to see things come together regardless of whether it is your work, the union, your religion, volunteering...I strongly recommend it."

We wish Geri well in her retirement and hope for frequent visits!

Adele Hamblett and Irene Sancinito