



# Mathematics Dept.

EDITOR: IRENE A. SANCINITO

## Math Department Meeting Notes

### MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008

**Conducted by:** Y. Venkat Rao

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Minutes Recorded by:** Kiruba Murugaiah

**Room:** B 206A

#### In attendance:

Yvette Straughter, Adele Hamblett, Y. Venkat Rao, Barbara Ton Ferullo, Kiruba Murugaiah, Samer Darwish, Joanne Manville, Chris Watson, Julie Lambert, Shirley MacKenzie, Ted Carlson, Christian Agunwamba, Amparo Hernandez-Folch, Irene Sancinito

#### Agenda:

1. Review and Approve Minutes from April 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting
2. Text Book(s) Selection for MAT 091, MAT 092 & MAT 094
3. Discuss and Take Action on Adele's Proposal
4. End of Semester Luncheon (Ideas)
5. Other Business

#### Handouts:

ModuMath email from Jan Bonanno to Ted Carlson

#### Discussions:

1. Review minutes of last meeting....#5Adele feels that it should include the four operations of rational expressions. Approved as amended.
2. **Text Book Selection**  
There have been no final conclusions. The 091/092 committee evaluated a lot of books for 091. Some things to consider are that our students would prefer smaller books; consider three separate printings. Ted recommends two separate prints for 091 and 092. Also, too many textbooks can make it confusing for students and adjuncts so although we do not want to take away academic freedom Ted recommends choosing 2 books for everyone. Rene is concerned about adjuncts changing the textbook in the last minute but this could be addressed in the upcoming professional development meetings.

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## Meet the Faculty

Born in Arkansas, Jennifer lived in England briefly as a child before her family relocated to Virginia. At the age of 15, Jennifer began tutoring middle and high school students in mathematics, a hobby that continued through her studies at John Tyler Community College in Chester, Virginia, where she enrolled upon graduation from high school. With strong recommendations from faculty members, she transferred to the University of Virginia after completing her A.S. degree, and then to Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where she completed her B.S. in mathematics in 2003. Cont. p. 2



# Math Department Meeting Notes (cont.)

091 text book choices are Aufman Barker, Lial, McKeague and Clarke.

Criteria that the committee considered were examples that addressed learning skills, margin exercises, clarity of explanations, and difficulty level of exercises. Committee should consider keeping a series of the same author for at least the 091/092 sequence. Many are currently using Lial and like MyMathLab and should probably keep that book. Barbara uses Lial and likes it but the Clarke book is also MyMathLab compatible. Barbara believes that there should be a common textbook. Committee is not ready to make a decision today. Committee will meet before graduation to make a final decision. The 094 Committee did not meet but had email discussion and the preference was Lial and the use of MyMathLab.

In June Venkat will be assigning the DCE courses so by June 10<sup>th</sup> the committees need to finalize the text books.

The department will meet once more followed by luncheon May 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM in BHCC and make a 2:00PM reservation for lunch.

### 3. Discuss and Take Action on Rational Expressions Proposal

The department engaged in an in depth and lengthy discussion on whether to include the four operations with Rational Expressions into the MAT 094 list of objectives. Some felt that there are already too many changes this semester and that we should wait until some data is collected on the current change before amending it for next semester or later. Others felt that the students who complete MAT 094 will now face a much larger jump into MAT 195. The department decided to take a vote. The results were:

6 votes to add the objectives for Fall 2008

7 votes to not add them for Fall 2008

## Meet the Faculty (cont.)

She then accepted a Graduate Teaching Assistantship to continue in the master's program at VCU, and began graduate studies the following semester. During her graduate studies, she taught Contemporary Mathematics and co-taught a pilot college algebra course with a senior faculty member. She conducted research under the advisement of Dr. Candace Kent, and completed her thesis, "Solutions of the Difference

$$x_n = \max \left\{ \frac{A_n}{x_n}, \frac{B_n}{x_{n-1}} \right\}$$

Equation in the Case of Period Four Parameters" in 2005. After a successful defense, she graduated with an M.S. degree in mathematics (concentration: pure mathematics) in 2005. She subsequently relocated with her husband (a native of Mexico and recent graduate of the Ph.D. program in Analytical Chemistry at VCU) to Nashville, Tennessee, where her husband began a post-doctoral appointment at Vanderbilt University. In Nashville, Jennifer first taught math courses as an adjunct instructor at Nashville State Community College, Columbia State Community College, and Tennessee State University (TSU). The next semester, she was offered a full-time faculty appointment at TSU, where she would teach developmental mathematics for two years. During this time, she worked with many minority students who were the first in their families to attend college, and helped them overcome the challenges they faced. She recalls one such student: "Alexandra was a quiet student who struggled greatly with math concepts. After she did not pass the first test, I contacted her and asked her to come to my office. We set up appointments twice a week for her to come to my office for extra help. After a month or so, her grades had gone from D's and F's to B's. She kept coming to see me twice a week for the rest of the semester. The increase in self-esteem and confidence I saw in her by the end of the semester was very rewarding for me, and made me want to help more students."

After teaching at TSU for two years, and upon completion of husband's post-doctoral work, she relocated to Massachusetts where her husband had accepted an offer of employment.

Jennifer is excited about the challenges and opportunities here at Bunker Hill, and looks forward to experiencing and contributing to the rich academic environment it offers.

As a life-long animal lover who has had pets including snakes, iguanas, and scorpions in addition to cats and dogs, Jennifer had originally wanted to become a veterinarian, but was ultimately drawn toward teaching by her love of mathematics and helping others. Her hobbies include going to parks with her three dog-children, cooking, and learning Spanish.

# Developmental News Updates

An e-mail Newsletter for all Developmental Math Faculty has been sent to the BHCC e-mail accounts of all Developmental Math Faculty. Trying to keep track of personal e-mail accounts for all math faculty is proving to be very difficult. It is imperative that you check your BHCC e-mail!!!

Some of the items from that newsletter have been included here as well.

Please keep me, (Ted Carlson; [rtcarlson@bhcc.mass.edu](mailto:rtcarlson@bhcc.mass.edu)) informed as to any issues, but also let me know what is going well!

## **SOFTWARE ON THE (I :) DRIVE**

The electronic version of the Developmental Math course materials is now available on the BHCC (I :) Drive. The files are located in the Developmental Math folder. The Portfolio folder has been updated; it includes additional files and a new menu (**PORTFOLIOSTART.htm**) which accesses all the portfolio materials.

The files are mostly in pdf format to position the graphic images correctly and to keep file sizes manageable.

The materials will also be available on a webpage in the near future.

## **SOFTWARE IN THE SMART CLASSROOMS**

The computers in the Smart Classrooms used for math classes have the following software installed:

AW E-Manipulatives

BHCCWIN

Smart Notebook

Geometer's Sketchpad

Also, the (H:)drive, accessible from the Smart Classrooms, includes a Dev Math Portfolio folder.

The portfolio worksheets can be displayed for reference during portfolio activities.

## **MAT094 FEEDBACK NEEDED:**

How ready are your MAT094 students for the class?

Please let me know how many students have VERY LOW SCORES on the pretest AND what their placement score was for math.

## **MAT091 FEEDBACK NEEDED:**

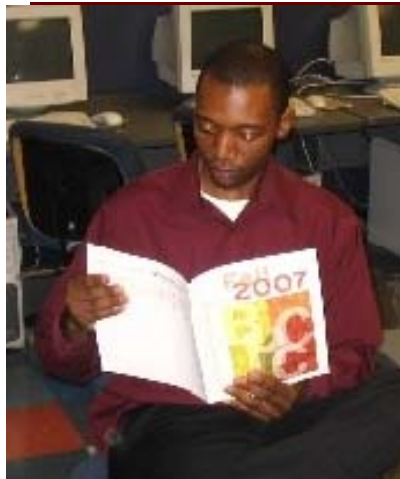
How many MAT085 potential students have you discovered?

## **FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSIONS**

Time for follow-up implementation discussions is planned for the week of September 22.



# Mathematics Computer Lab



Louis Gregoire  
Coordinator  
Math Computer Lab

The math computer lab is run by the Mathematics Department. It has 24 computer workstations, each with Text-specific software for most math courses taught at Bunker Hill Community College – **MyMathLab**, **NSFMath**, **TI InterActive**, **Sketchpad**, **Notebook** and more for the following classes

Fundamentals of Math	Pre-Algebra
Fundamentals of Algebra	Intro to Metric Systems
Finite Math	Statistics
College Algebra	Pre-Calculus
Calculus	Linear Algebra

## Fall 2008 Hours of Operation:

<b>Monday:</b>	<b>9:00AM-8:00PM</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:00AM-8:00PM</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>9:00AM-8:00PM</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	<b>9:00AM-8:00PM</b>
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>9:00AM-5:00PM</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	<b>10:00AM-4:00PM</b>
<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>10:00AM-4:00PM</b>

## 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 October issue is October 15, 2008.***

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

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