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PAC Newsletter

AMATYC Newsletter
Placement/Assessment
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PLACEMENT/ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS!

Arie Nadler, Jesse Parete, Chris Oehrlein & Bill Worpenberg featured speakers

Arie Nadler, Director of Development at the Ontario Colleges Mathematics Association in Canada will present "Assessing Student Readiness: A Multivariable Program-Referenced Model that works!" at the 1997 AMATYC Conference in Atlanta.

The Ontario Colleges Mathematics Association (OCMA) has developed a Multivariable Program-Referenced Model for first semester students in Engineering Technology Programs. Currently under development is a computerized delivery system with both local and wide area network capability. Come hear Arie discuss this innovative project!

This session is S24 and is Friday, November 14, from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m.

Jesse Parete is the coordinator for Mathematics at Edison State Community College in Piqua, Ohio. Jesse chairs the subcommittee on Assessment of Students. Chris Oehrlein is a member of the PAC and has recently moved from West Virginia to out west. Their presentation is entitled "The Busy Intersection Between Collaborative Learning and Individual Achievement."

Thanks to the classroom research of Chris Oehrlein, the PAC has begun to examine assessment practices that incorporate cooperative group activities. Chris and Jesse will share experiences with promoting cooperative learning experiences that are integrated into their assessment practices

This session is S67 and will be held on Saturday, November 15, from 10:30 until 11:30 a.m.

Bill Worpenberg is a lecture of mathematics at Indiana University East and chairs the PAC subcommittee on assessment of programs. Bill will convene a panel discussion on "Models, Models, and More Models (of Evaluating Mathematics Programs.)"

According to AMATYC's Standards for Introductory Mathematics "The effectiveness of any mathematics program depends on its ongoing revision and revitalization based on regular evaluations. The intent of any program evaluation should be to make recommendations for improvement and updating, while retaining the effective aspects of the program." Furthermore, it states "mathematics faculty should carry the primary responsibility for program evaluation" and "the standards for intellectual development, for content, and for pedagogy should serve as criteria for

evaluation of the instructional aspects of the programs."

What are the various types of program assessment currently being used in two-year colleges? What initiates an assessment process? How do institutions determine the outcome objectives for their program? What techniques are used to determine if students meet the outcome objectives? How can information be collected? These questions and others will be answered during the panel discussion which will focus on models that are currently being used in two-year colleges to assess mathematics programs that have been recognized by accrediting agencies.

This session is S56 and will be held on Friday, November 14, from 2:30 until 3:30 p.m.

PAC Committee Meetings will be held on Friday from 11:30 until 12:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 1:30 until 2:30 p.m. Come join the PAC!

If you are unable to attend the AMATYC Conference held in

Atlanta, and would like the
handout from the session,
please write Nancy Sattler at
Terra Community College,
2830 Napoleon Road,
Fremont, OH 43420 or
send email to:
nsattler@terra.cc.oh.us

- Please take a few moments to fill in the membership form on the following page so that your

newsletters will continue to be sent to you

- The PAC is gathering information on state practices in placement and state mathematics standards. Does your state require a minimum level of mathematics at the college level? Please fill out the form on the following page and return to Nancy Sattler. Data will be shared in a future newsletter.



The PAC wants you to be an active member! Please share your ideas on placement and assessment by sending them to the editor of the newsletter Nancy Sattler.

Inspired Questions & Answers

PAC Members Write

Q: Is AMATYC doing anything to influence ACT and ETS?

A: Although AMATYC does not have an appointed position on advisory boards, classroom teachers throughout the country are used as advisors. These teachers are at all levels – high school and college.

Q: What is TIMSS?

A: The U.S. National Research Center for the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) is based at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan. To request a copy of the TIMSS report, or to subscribe to the TIMSS newsletter which comes out once every several months, send an email message to jbabcock@mus.edu. One of the national goals is to be “first in the world in mathematics and science achievement by the year 2000.” In mathematics, U.S. eighth graders scored below the international average of the 41 TIMSS countries but not significantly different from those of England and German. In science, U.S. eighth graders scored above the international average of

41 the TIMMS countries and not significantly different from those of Canada, England, and Germany.

Q: How did U.S. Students perform in individual subject areas?

A: The U.S. eighth graders' standing is at about the international average in Algebra, Fractions, Data Representation, Analysis, & Probability. They do less well in Geometry, Measurement, and Proportionality

Q: What did the TIMSS study conclude?

A: The search for factors associated with student performance is complicated because student achievement after eight years of schooling is the product of many different factors. The U.S. education system is large and decentralized with many interrelated parts.

The content of U.S. eighth grade mathematics classes is not as challenging as that of other countries and topic coverage is not focused. Although many U.S. mathematics teachers are familiar with reform recommendations, only a few apply the key points in their classrooms. Evidence suggests that U.S. teachers do not receive as much practical training and daily support as their German and Japanese colleagues.