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News from NEBMATYC

### Tornados and Blizzards Bracket a Wild Spring Conference!

Thank you again to Central Region VP Pete Wildman for speaking at our Spring NEBMATYC conference (and bringing the wonderful door prizes! Who won the TI-89????!). It was really fun doing Pete's classroom activities for the Liberal Arts capstone math class. I was amazed that his students could do the practical problem on costing out the gas pipelines based on the blueprints--what a good way for them to actually use their math.

Publishers Wiley and Sons, Prentice Hall, Addison-Wesley, and Houghton-Mifflin brought textbooks and brownies. WileyPLUS and MyMathLab faced off for a panel discussion: Software Solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This was the first opportunity for many of the teachers to actually visit with book reps, and the teachers were appreciative.

Frank Weidenfeller (winner of the 2005-6 Teaching Excellence award) presented the results of the state-wide survey, and hosted a College Algebra round table discussion, including publishers and teachers.

Dale Johanson did a nice job on the Sudoku--I always like history, and his PowerPoint slides + the practice Sudokus were really fun. I was unfamiliar with their sizes, but thought they were nice to introduce logical thinking.

Of course some of the best visiting was during the campus tour

The weather was rough, but it was a good conference. -Connie Buller

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Editor, Connie Buller, Metropolitan CC, Omaha  
To join, click on [Nebraska Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges](#)

### NEW OFFICERS Elected at Conference: 2006-8

**President: John Miller, Northeast CC**

**President-Elect: Dale Johanson, Northeast**

**Secretary: Michael Flesch, Metro CC**

**Treasurer: Debi Martin, North Platte CC**

**2007 Conference Chair: Sharan Ostdiek**

**2007 Conference: Hastings Community College, Fri. April 13, 2007**

**AMATYC: Beyond Crossroads** After discussion noting that this document be seen as helpful, but not prescriptive, NEBMATYC joined other affiliates in endorsing this document (available at [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org)).

**What do you do with textbook samples?** One college present at the conference asked us all what we do with our sample textbooks. Most colleges do not have policies on the textbook buyers that come around. I like using them to see different ways of presenting material, and share them with adjunct instructors for the same purposes. Some publishers, of course, make it easy for us to return them, but sometimes the sheer pile of textbooks can get dangerous!



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Award Winner 2005-6

Frank Weidenfeller, MCC

**A. Instructional Effectiveness** In addition to his classroom teaching, Frank spends time trying to make sure that students can understand the topics by creating worksheets to supplement the text. In several cases, his worksheets have been adopted by the department as required handouts to accompany the course in question. He teaches everything from Developmental Mathematics through the Algebras through Calculus, and this experience has made him valuable in helping us see exactly which skills students need to find success in later courses.

**B. Student Support** Frank cares about his students. Recently he was concerned about the number of students withdrawing or failing College Algebra (in all sections), and instituted a research project across the college, checking on student placement and completion of prerequisite courses. As a result, we are looking again, together with Student Services, at these issues, and Frank is also making some recommendations for the way we design the course so that we cover the needed objectives while still providing a way for students to get practice on prior skills.

**C. Professional Development and Involvement** Frank has represented our college on the Nebraska College Algebra Initiative committee, and has visited community colleges in other states to see how they teach math. He has been a regular attendee of NEBMATYC conferences, has gone to the national AMATYC conference

more than once, and this year is presenting a roundtable discussion at NEBMATYC on College Algebra, based on a state-wide survey of College Algebra that he has been gathering since last Spring.

**D. Service to the Department, College and Community**

Frank is a regular member of textbook and course design committees, and always has thoughtful insights, with the goal of excellence in student learning while not sacrificing quality.

## Around AMATYC

### 2006 AMATYC Conference

- November 2-5 AMATYC at Cincinnati

I wish I had this back when! 😊

I was checking that link [www.amatyc.org](http://www.amatyc.org) works, and saw that there is now an Affiliate President's Handbook on the website. If you have given thought to becoming active at the state or national levels, check this out.

<http://www.amatyc.org/affiliates/affiliates-handbook.htm>

New math teacher being hired??!

Encourage him or her to apply to PROJECT ACCESS [Project ACCESS Website](http://www.projectaccess.org)

News from your college?

NEBMATYC member Brad Morrison is Interim Dean of Math, Science and Horticulture at Metro CC May, 2006

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