



ArizMATYC NEWS

VOLUME 5, NO. 2

JUNE 2007

A Message from the ArizMATYC President

The AMATYC Spring Conference was well organized and well attended with an interesting choice of sessions. Everyone seemed to appreciate the time set aside for a two hour ATF discussion continued from the Fall ATF meeting. ATF issues are always important to our members so they can prepare their students for the state universities. Keynote speaker John Hornsby entertained us with his humorous Hollywood math movie clips featuring the Scarecrow of Oz, Danny Kaye, Abbott and Costello, Lisa Simpson, and Jeff Foxworthy as they expounded on various math topics. Pat McKeague shared how he interests developmental algebra students in careers as community college math instructors. He instills confidence and ambition in his students by displaying resumes from his colleagues who started in developmental math, expressing his own enjoyment of teaching, and showing them what they need to do to become math instructors themselves. April Strom explained her research project on understanding secondary mathematics teachers' ways of thinking about exponential functions. And Debra Rader, a representative from the Governor's office, described the new Arizona P20 initiative. The purpose of P-20 is to improve education in Arizona by aligning programs and policies from pre-school through post-secondary education to ensure more students graduate from high school, succeed in college and are ready for the modern workforce.

At the ArizMATYC business meeting we talked about creating a Beyond Crossroads assessment cycle for Arizona community colleges. Implementing Beyond Crossroads could affect state community college funding in a positive way by showing we are a key player in the P-20 initiative. David Graser told us about AMATYC's NSF grant to work on Refocusing College Algebra. The grant will fund a series of AMATYC Traveling Workshops. A few years ago I had the privilege of attending an AMATYC Traveling Workshop. It was a dynamic, creative experience, and I was impressed by the quality of both the facilitators and participants. If we have enough interested members, we may be able to host a workshop at a college in Arizona.

Dan Russow and his ArizMATYC team are working hard to organize the exhibits and book representatives for the AMATYC Southwest Regional Conference in San Antonio on June 15 and 16. I hope to see some of you there this summer. A special thanks to all of you who generously donated to the fund to send New Orleans members to the 2007 AMATYC Conference. The funding will allow the New Orleans delegates who had expected to stay in New Orleans to travel to the new conference site in Minneapolis.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Prescott at Yavapai Community College in the Fall. I hope you all have an enjoyable and rejuvenating summer.

Shay Cardell

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We need your news for the newsletter! Mail articles to Sue Jensen at Pima Community College
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AMATYC Southwest Regional Conference
“π-ALAMO-ED”
San Antonio, Texas
June 15 – 16, 2007

The 2007 Southwest Regional Conference will be held Friday and Saturday, June 15 and 16 in San Antonio, Texas. Invited speakers include Dr. Joseph Gillian from the University of Minnesota Duluth and Dr. Gloria White from the Charles A. Dana Center. Hotel accommodations are available at the St. Anthony's Hotel. Details are available on the conference website – just follow the link from the ArizMATYC website.

The conference committee is comprised of current and past presidents of the four state affiliates in the Southwest Region, ArizMATYC, NMMATYC, OkMATYC, and TexMATYC. ArizMATYC is in charge of sponsorship and exhibitors. If you are interested in taking a more active role in this conference, please e-mail Dan Russow at Daniel.russow@azwestern.edu. See you in San Antonio!



ArizMATYC Campus Reports – February 23, 2007

Yavapai Community College:

- Using MyMathLab in all classes except Calculus
- Remodeling
- Will host the ArizMATYC meeting and Math ATF in fall 2007

University of Arizona:

- Changed placement score for Precalculus to be the same score as for College Algebra
- Introducing calculus-based statistics course in fall 2008

South Mountain Community College:

- Received the Maricopa innovator of the year award for Math Camp
- Endured several people leaving and retiring

Scottsdale Community College:

- Some people working on Math PhD in education
- Conducting learning communities for faculty to do research for credit

Pima Community College, West Campus:

- Struggling to implement and enforce prerequisites
- Using modular format for Beginning Algebra
- Experiencing good enrollment for Business Math class

Phoenix College:

- Mathapalooza (math awareness) event went very well
- Using MyMathLab for hybrid and online Intermediate Algebra courses has been very popular

Paradise Valley Community College:

- Doing lots of good things

Northland Pioneer College:

- Allowing students to opt to take a course one level above placement
- Enrollments are good

Northern Arizona University:

- Offering calculus-based statistics course in fall 2007 with a pre-requisite of Calculus I
- New hires: statistics and math education
- Population is growing; many new buildings
- New chair of mathematics department is Janet McShane

continued

Campus Reports, continued

Mohave Community College:

- Standardizing curriculum and implementing common final exams across campus
- Using MyMathLab for online courses

Mesa Community College:

- Have a new interim president, lost VP of Academic Affairs in summer
- Want to create new arithmetic learning lab with computer lab and lecture area; expect a 75% pass rate associated with new learning lab
- Considering whether to allow students to retake class without paying again

Eastern Arizona Community College:

- 3 new faculty members/1 faculty member with major illness who is now back and doing well
- Looking at the appropriateness of placement test and scores
- Participating on committee with local schools regarding preparing for college math courses
- Teaching trigonometry for some high school students using ITV
- Administrative changes: deans are changing to executive VP and Provost

Diné College:

- Expect visit of Higher Learning Commission
- Working on assessment using pre-test and post-test for College Algebra

Coconino Community College:

- Using different books at Page and Flagstaff campuses
- President retiring at the end of May, in process of hiring a new president (no interim president)
- Acquired mascot name of Coconino Comets
- Bond issue did not pass
- Applied for HP grant focusing on retention rates for female and Native American students
- Using MyMathLab in some developmental courses; may use it in other courses next year
- Arithmetic course going into Adult Basic Ed
- Looking at changing placement scores, especially for Intermediate Algebra

Cochise Community College:

- Bond election did not pass
- Need other funds for buildings and technology needs
- Using Hawkes software, but unsure of the books
- Assessment moving along well
- Will teach course swap with University of Arizona South

continued

Campus Reports, continued

Chandler-Gilbert Community College:

- Growth rate is 7 to 8%; additional locations in Sun Lakes and Williams
- Nursing program is growing
- Participating in NAU 2 + 2 Elementary Ed program
- Using common final exams for most math courses
- Using Educo for online courses from Arithmetic Review through College Algebra
- Participating in outreach programs such as contests

Central Arizona Community College:

- Revamped developmental courses to three 3-credit courses
- Created new placement scores for all math courses
- Working on grant for tutoring middle school teachers for their required exam
- Participating in dual-enrollment with high school

Arizona Western College:

- Added Maple to Calculus II
- Participated in Student Math League for the first time (15 students)
- Working on AMATYC SW Regional Conference in San Antonio, TX (registration available online)
- ArizMATYC in charge of vendors and exhibitors at SW Regional Conference
- College restructuring by removing division chairs and bringing in three new deans

Arizona State University West:

- 8 new faculty members: 4 in applied math, 2 applied computing, 2 stats; more faculty still to be hired
- Statistics to be taught online in fall

Arizona State University:

- Moving from department structure to a school structure
- Anticipate split between first year math and upper division math
- Investigating options for homework online, considering MyMathLab

Glendale Community College:

- Enrollments are down, but o.k.
- Trouble with hybrid course due to technical difficulties; looking at software to go back to hybrid course
- Using grant money to create placement tool to help students decide what type of course (traditional, hybrid, online) to take

No campus reports were received from Tohono O'odham, Eio Salado, Grand Canyon, Gateway, Estrella Mountain and Embry-Riddle.

ArizMATYC Business Meeting
Glendale Community College – February 23, 2007

Meeting convened at 1:07 pm

1. Corrections and approval of minutes from fall 2006 meeting

Tabled until next meeting so that the minutes could be sent out to the listserv in advance of the meeting.

2. Reports

A. Treasurer: See Treasurer's report; bringing in some money, up \$872.00 from fall to spring.

B. Newsletter: Please send articles for newsletter!!!! Jennifer Jameson will check minutes from last meeting regarding what to do with the past scores of the Student Math League winners that were published in previous newsletters. Sue Jensen will send an email to delegates to the AMATYC national conference to gather articles.

C. Webmaster: ISP disappeared and website was down; changed to a new server.

Kate Kozak will start updating the directory in the fall before the fall meeting; suggestion to use an Excel template to gather information for directory; maybe send a paper mailing to members and past members to request updated information.

Discussion about responding to listserv.

D. Historian: No report

E. President-Elect: No report

F. Past-President: No report

G. President: Thanks to Dan Russow for being a great president.

3. Discussion of Southwest Regional AMATYC conference

June 15th and 16th, 2007 in San Antonio, Texas

People are mailing in checks because the cost is too high to use credit cards

Registration forms and hotel information are online

Keynotes: Dr. Joseph Gallian and Dr. Gloria White

What is the timeline for accepting proposals?

There will be a planning meeting later on today

Glendale Community College is in charge of book reps – will be sending out requests soon

4. Future Meetings

Fall 2007 meeting at Yavapai Community College on 10/5/07

Spring 2008 meeting is a joint meeting with MAA in April 2008

Anne and Dave will send email to MAA people to coordinate

5. TIME Committee Position Statement

Send comments to Frank Wilson or Howard Speier at Chandler-Gilbert Community College

Dual-enrollment discussion at AMATYC? No

continued

TIME document will be voted on in fall so we need to talk about it further at the fall ArizMATYC meeting so the delegates will know how to vote
Maybe Frank Wilson could run a session on it at the fall meeting

6. **Revise Constitution and Bylaws**

Current Constitution and Bylaws on www.arizmatyc.org

Last revision was in April 1993

Suggested changes: Look at duties of officers; Who is in charge of elections? Maybe president-elect; change president; change “written notice” to “notice”; change “mail ballot” to “ballot”

Anne Dudley will send out revisions to the listserv and we can continue revisions via email

7. **Membership Drive**

Were expecting 60 at the spring 2007 conference and 80 actually attended the conference today, so would like to get more RSVP's

Maybe we should charge \$15 if RSVP and \$20 if not? No

Kate will look for distribution list

8. **Beyond Crossroads Implementation in Arizona**

Do we want to have our own assessment cycle for Arizona community colleges to assess certain items that we would like to see in all Arizona community colleges?

Maybe we should have a session at the fall 2007 meeting to discuss Crossroads in Arizona, especially since this falls in line with the P-20 initiative

It might affect funding in a positive way to show that we are a key player in the P-20 initiative

David Graser will send a proposal for this

9. **Sponsoring a New Orleans member to Minneapolis Conference**

AMATYC is raising money to help send AMATYC members from New Orleans to the conference in Minneapolis, MN

ArizMATYC's goal is \$1000; maybe send another mailer regarding this

Anyone can donate money now on AMATYC website and say that it is from ArizMATYC so that ArizMATYC can reach its goal

These donations are tax-deductible

10. **Other**

Traveling workshops for refocusing College Algebra; Should we have one of these at the fall 2007 meeting at Yavapai Community College? Send this out to the listserv for feedback

Will approve both minutes from fall 2006 and spring 2007 at the fall 2007 meeting at Yavapai – will send out both minutes on listserv prior to meeting

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm

Jennifer Jameson, Secretary

32nd AMATYC Annual Conference — November 2-5, 2006
Cincinnati, Ohio
“Keeping Current with the Standards”

Delegate Report from Shay Cardell

Total number of conference attendees: 1147

ArizMATYC attendees: Scott Adamson, Tom Adamson, Shay Cardell, Anne Dudley, David Dudley,
Terri Glaess, David Graser, Ken Hurley, Ana Jiménez, Dennis Shaw, Laura Watkins

Thursday Morning Presentation: Finding and Using Real Life Data -

Mike Harbison and Gene Sellers

Mike presented many useful Internet sites for finding data; he demonstrated some unusual data, such as regional dialects, anthropometric (body measurement), data from the Center for Disease Control, most popular baby names by state, animal sleep times vs. brain size. Gene Sellers demonstrated data from 2500 St. Louis residents showing a link between their genetics and cancer and showed how to use the data to demonstrate statistics analysis in the classroom.

Thursday Morning Workshop: Nothing Old, Something New, Freely Borrowed, No Longer Blue -

JoAnn Williams and Nancy Rivers

From samples of real data, we had an opportunity to devise our own lessons, models and activities and then share them with one another. The whole was more than the sum of the parts when more than 30 creative teachers developed, shared and compared ideas. JoAnn often tells her students to go on the Internet, find some data, and make some problems.

Thursday Opening General Session - “If You Want Change, Here’s 2 Dimes and a Nickel”

Keynote Speaker Wade Ellis, Jr.

Wade Ellis presented results from research showing how students learn best. Some of these ways were Organizing, Prerequisites, Objectives, Performance Criteria, Vocabulary, Resources, Planning, Models, Critical Thinking Questions, Applications, Problem Solving, Reflection, Self Assessment, and Extensions. He noted the changes in student expectations and comportment he had noticed during his tenure including cell phone calls, instant messages, text messages, iPods, interest in grades rather than learning, rudeness, skepticism (Why do we have to learn this?) He asked, what is the value added of an instructor to computerized lessons?

Expertise in Math

Expertise in teaching problem solving

Expertise in pedagogy

In discussing what the future might bring to mathematics teaching he mentioned (1) less time in class, more time in small groups and in preparation and (2) using the various technologies more. He warned us that if the math we teach is not relevant to students’ goals then we may no longer have jobs teaching math.

The Beyond Crossroads document was officially unveiled at the opening session; copies were distributed to the conference attendees.

According to AMATYC President Kathy Mowers, “the release of Beyond Crossroads sounds a loud trumpet call to launch rich opportunities for professional development, enhancing professionalism, engaging stakeholders, and embracing change individually and collectively.” *Beyond Crossroads* focuses on specifics for strengthening the teaching and learning of mathematics in the first two years of college. The document’s recurring theme of Embracing Change is illustrated by an easy-to-use Implementation Cycle. The initial set of electronic resources to accompany the written document includes a web-enhanced version of the written document, an outreach kit for communicating the messages of *Beyond Crossroads* to a variety of audiences, and digital products on assessment and quantitative literacy.

Friday Morning – Regional Meeting and Breakfast

At the regional meeting and breakfast we were introduced to the ACCESS fellows, a group of 25 faculty in the current cohort. Project ACCESS is a professional development and mentoring program for new two-year college mathematics faculty, funded by a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation and jointly sponsored by AMATYC and MAA. Also, awards were presented to this year’s Student Math League winners and plans were made for the Southwest Regional Meeting in San Antonio in June 2007.

Friday Plenary Session on Standards-Based Mathematics Education: What’s It All About? Panel of MAA, NCTM and AMATYC writers:

1. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) – Past President, Michigan State University: Explained the process of writing the NCTM [Principles and Standards for Mathematics](#)

She mentioned the following tensions encountered while designing standards:

Specificity vs. Flexibility (must have enough of each to get people to read)

Consensus vs. Leadership (getting everyone’s support vs pushing the field)

Within Reach vs. Ambitious (if goals are too far away implementation will be shallow or dismissed)

Public vs. Professional (Must be understandable by both types of stakeholders)

She also addressed what can go wrong when standards are implemented:

Excluding all instruction not immediately rewarding in terms of understanding

Interpretation that students can do all the “structure-building” work on their own

Denial that skills have any real importance

Undermining the didactic role of difficulty

Significance confused with real life relevance

Denying that solitary work and teacher interventions may be as vital as teamwork

Discussion and conversation do not guarantee learning. (It is not enough to just do 50 problems and read your answers)

Relaxation of rules of discourse may redefine what constitutes mathematics

Imbuing values and shaping attitudes is not easy

Belief that old and new are mutually exclusive (e.g. banishment of teaching by telling)

No Child Left Behind requirements have encouraged teachers to view the standards as a check-off list. To help connect math skills, NCTM is introducing a new way of approaching curriculum, Curriculum Focal Points, where groups of skills rather than discrete topics are studied.

2. Carl Cowen – Mathematical Association of America (MAA) president, IUPUI School of Science
The MAA Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) developed a Curriculum Guide in 2004. Together with Illustrative Resources it is available at www.maa.org/cupm
It attempts to align courses around student needs, including “Habits of Mind” and quantitative literacy.
3. Kathy Mowers – AMATYC President, Owensboro Community and Technical College
She described the Beyond Crossroads Implementation Cycle and suggested that changes be gradual. Teachers should maybe try a new activity in only one class at first and then refine it. She counseled that change requires courage.

Friday Workshop on Mathematical Crime Scene Investigations -

Karen Gaines, St. Louis Community College

This was a very popular workshop. Activities included examining and classifying our fingerprints, measuring our bones to estimate our heights, using forensic math formulas, finding the location of the source of a blood spatter, measuring tire tracks, and exploring forensic scientist careers. Students are excited about CSI due to the recent popular TV programs. She cautioned that there are not many jobs available in the field, most are held by working professors. Math and science are prerequisites. There are many other science jobs for students who acquire the skills and education needed to become a forensic scientist.

Workshop – Beyond Crossroads: Spreading the Word

This workshop that focused on implementing changes in math programs and curriculums based on the *Beyond Crossroads* Standards. We heard a presentation on the psychology of changes called “Why don’t We Change (Even When We Want To) and What To Do About It” by Douglas Robertson. He engaged us in “Assumption Hunting” to determine what could be preventing change in the mathematics community. In focus groups we explored the following topics from *Beyond Crossroads* and developed ideas for implementing changes: Student Learning and the Learning Environment, Assessment of Student Learning, Curriculum and Program Development, Instruction, Professionalism. My focus group, on Curriculum and Program Development, had a lively discussion about ways to integrate quantitative literacy across the campus.

Friday Program and Curriculum Committee Meeting

Most of the discussion centered around requirements for the Math for Elementary Teachers classes. Some state Articulation Task Forces are making it difficult to offer these classes, because they are allocated to the Education Department rather than the Math Department, where instructors have not learned enough math to teach the necessary skills. A themed session at the next conference was recommended and participants were encouraged to submit proposals.

Celebration of *Beyond Crossroads*: National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

A crowd of nearly 1000 celebrated the *Beyond Crossroads* Roll-Out at the Freedom Center. Awards were presented to the writers, reviewers and editors of the document.

Saturday Awards Breakfast

A humorous lesson on knot theory was the highlight of the Awards Breakfast “Blown Away: What to Do When Sailing, by Sir Randolph Bacon III”. The keynote speaker/entertainer was Colin Adams. Contributors to AMATYC and the Crossroads documents were introduced, and Student Math League Awards were presented.

I took a 2 hour break from the conference to go to the Newport on the Levee and walk near the riverboats and over the purple bridge across the Ohio River. On the bridge I was able to peer up at a group of bridge climbers who roped themselves to the bridge and ventured across the top girders.

Saturday Lunch with AMATYC Web Developers

Meeting together, we were able to share our experiences and knowledge of web design to improve the AMATYC web sites. Affiliates have asked for listserv services. We will explore ISPs that can provide multiple listservs economically. We compared email voting methods, how to check broken links, and making Internet forms using Formmail. We discussed giving a joint presentation at the 2007 conference to introduce our services to AMATYC members.

Saturday Presentation: PassMath-Standards and Results in Developmental Math -

Martha Haehl, Timothy P. Chappell, Nic M. LaHue, Metropolitan Community College in Penn Valley, Kansas City, MO

PassMath is an NSF-funded STEP project for pilot developmental math classes. Seventy percent of the students at Metropolitan Community College place into Basic Math or Introductory Algebra.. Only 3-35% successfully complete a two-course sequence in successive semesters. The presenters found that developmental math students are often unorganized, poorly motivated and have very low skill levels. The goal of the program is to transition more students through developmental classes. To this end they are experimenting with standards-based student activities, and comparing the results between the pilot and comparison classes.

Delegate Assembly

A new committee structure was presented, with new committee chairs being approved by the Board at its 2007 Spring Board meeting. The main topic of discussion at the delegate assembly was a motion for a Constitutional Amendment to tie AMATYC dues to the Consumer Price Index. The amendment was approved.



Fall 2006 ArizMATYC Conference Report

It was good to see everyone again at the Fall 2006 ArizMATYC ATF Meeting and Conference, “The Crossroads and Beyond.” A special thanks to Conference Coordinator Ken Hurley and the rest of the Central Arizona Math Department who hosted the conference. The program and facilities were first rate, and I heard several remarks about the helpful signage that guided everyone efficiently to their destinations on campus.

Alan Jacobs, AMATYC Teaching Excellence award winner, gave an inspiring keynote address, recounting his experiences as a teacher during a series of math reforms, and challenging math instructors to examine their own teaching practices in light of the *Beyond Crossroads* recommendations.

Guest Speaker Jonathan David Farley shared anecdotes and film clips from his role as a math consultant for Hollywood productions including *Medium* and *NUMB3RS*. David Graser, *Beyond Crossroads* Digital Products Coordinator, outlined the structure of the BC digital products website and invited everyone to submit digital products and links.

The ATF Session was extended from morning through a working lunch and later in the afternoon, as ATF members continued a lively discussion about new math requirements at the various universities.

Not a member of the ATF task force, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend Frank Wilson’s fine presentation on “When Am I Ever Going to Use This?” and partake of several of his “Ten Real-Life Applications”. I enjoyed using the Annuities Activity in my Liberal Arts Math class this semester. Other activities and projects were relevant to students’ lives and appropriate for teaching financial math. One of the interesting activities was an Excel spreadsheet that helps students choose careers using a decision matrix. Frank, who teaches at Scottsdale Community College, is writing a textbook to be published by Harcourt Brace, the same company that published the Maricopa Math Modules a few years ago.

In the afternoon I attended David Graser’s presentation to learn about the “*Beyond Crossroads* Electronic Resources.” David welcomes contributions to the online collection of teaching and assessment resources, so if you have a web link or activity of your own that matches the *Beyond Crossroads* mission, send it to David by using the “Suggest a Resource” link on the *Beyond Crossroads* website. Categories for Electronic Resources are Assessment, Quantitative Literacy and Outreach Kits. Be sure to visit the site at <http://www.bc.amatyc.org/> for some great ideas.

Because the ATF group missed almost all the breakout sessions, I’m hoping some of you who presented in the fall will consider presenting again so that we can have another chance to hear from you.

Shay Cardell

AMATYC Student Math League

Second-round and cumulative results of the 2006 – 2007 Student Math League for both the nation and all regions have been announced.

Arizona teams participating in Round 2 placed as follows in the Southwest Region:

2	Pima Community College
T3	Mesa Community College
7	Arizona Western College
13	Phoenix College
T16	Paradise Valley Community College

Arizona students who scored highest in Round 2 ranked as follows:

T1	Nghia Vu	Arizona Western College
5	Chris Wilson	Pima Community College
6	Frank Fimbres	Pima Community College
T7	Earl Guenthner	Mesa Community College
T15	Ryan Moriarty	Mesa Community College
T17	Jesus Garcia, Ryan Felix	Pima Community College

Cumulative results for the Southwest Region include the following ranked Arizona college teams:

2	Pima Community College
5	Mesa Community College
7	Arizona Western College
12	Phoenix College
T16	Paradise Valley CC, South Mountain CC

Southwest Region students with cumulative high scores ranked as follows in the region:

3	Nghia Vu	Arizona Western College
6	Earl Guenthner	Mesa Community College
T9	Ryan Felix	Pima Community College
T9	Ryan Moriarty	Mesa Community College
11	Nhan Nguyen	Arizona Western College
12	Danielle Johnson	Pima Community College

Now is the time to consider participating in the 2007-2008 Student Math League exams. The cost to register your college team is \$35; the registration fee is waived if your college is an institutional member of AMATYC. A college moderator is required – someone who is willing to make a few photocopies, advertise and proctor the exam, and report the scores to the national moderator. This is a simple way to introduce students to competitive exams and to encourage them to have some fun with math. There is even a similar competition for faculty at the national AMATYC conference every fall. Rules of the student competition and more information is available at the AMATYC website (www.amatyc.org).

Mark your calendar and plan now to attend:

33rd Annual AMATYC National Conference
November 1–4, 2007
Minneapolis, Minnesota

“Building a Better Tomorrow”

Follow the link on the ArizMATYC web page to learn more about the conference:

www.arizmatyc.org



YOU Can Help to Strengthen ArizMATYC

Are all of your colleagues ArizMATYC members? If not, encourage them to join now. Ask them to send their name, college, contact information and \$5 to

Anne Dudley, ArizMATYC Treasurer
Glendale Community College
6000 West Olive Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85302

Questions about ArizMATYC? Call Anne at 623-845-3389