

March 6, 2015 • Faulkner State CC • Fairhope Campus

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Shawanda Thomas  
Lawson State  
Community College  
stthomas@lawsonstate.edu

**PRESIDENT-ELECT**

Michael Green  
Shelton State  
Community College  
mgreen@sheltonstate.ed

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Weymon Holloway  
Lawson State  
Community College  
wholloway@lawsonstate.edu

**TREASURER**

Carol Gudauskas  
Southern Union  
Community College  
cgudauskas@succ.edu

**WEBMASTER**

Darrell Hagler  
Shelton State  
Community College  
dhagler@sheltonstate.edu

**PUBLICATIONS**

Tammy Ebert  
Faulkner State  
Community College  
tebert@faulknerstate.edu

**LIAISON TO ACTM**

Lisa Nix  
Shelton State  
Community College  
Lisa.nix@sheltonstate.edu

**PAST-PRESIDENT**

Paige Feibelman  
Southern Union State  
Community College  
pfeibelman@suscc.edu

**2015 AlaMATYC Conference  
One Month Away**

It is almost time for the 2015 AlaMATYC State Conference. This year's conference will be held in beautiful Fairhope, Alabama Friday March 6th, on Faulkner State's Fairhope Campus. The theme is *Learning To Infinity*. We are looking forward to many new members attending. Please register now and bring a colleague or two. On site registration is also available at the conference. All the details are found on the AlaMATYC website. Please go here to print registration forms, hotel information, directions, and the agenda. <http://alamatyc.wix.com/alamatyc>

We have several exciting break out sessions in store this year including FSCC's Canadian team specializing in Animation production.



Bill Taylor, President of the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama, and former President and CEO of Mercedes-Benz US International will be our keynote speaker.

We are excited to rub elbows with fellow mathematics instructors from around the state. We look forward to seeing everyone March 6th in Fairhope, AL.

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### Review of 40th Annual AMATYC Conference

The 40th annual AMATYC National Conference entertained and enlightened all participants. The experience went above and beyond all expectations! This year's theme was *Mathematics: Music To My Ears*. The conference was hosted at the beautiful Gaylord Opryland Resort and Conference Center, in Nashville, Tennessee November 13-16. Participants witnessed the Opryland Christmas Extravaganza complete with the annual tree lighting and two million seasonal sparkling exterior lights. Inside, decorations adorned the conference center, walkways, and each atrium showcase. This year the Gaylord boasted a new twist with Country singers and stars decorating their own trees, silent auctioning items to their favorite charity.

At this year's anniversary conference, we were honored to have as our breakfast keynote speaker, the 1974 AMATYC founding President, **Herb Gross**. Now in his late 80's, Gross received the newly renamed "Herb Gross Lifetime Achievement Award" after his morning address. Gross studied and taught mathematics at MIT, but later chose to leave and become a Junior College Professor at Corning Community College in New York in the 1950s. During the address he reminded us in that era, only 20% of the US population went to college (Universities); therefore, the idea and possibility of having a "community college," opened the avenues of a college education to everyone. His wisdom was amazing, as he challenged current instructors to focus less on the "how," but more on the "why." He referenced Khan Academy and Google stating that the "how" is one click away, but it is our duty to coach students and to emphasize the "why" so that the "how" becomes relevant! He later returned to MIT as the Pioneer of Distance Learning in 1959, broadcasting a Calculus refresher course to engineers across the world via TV. He attributes his success to the community college and to his modified teaching style, now reaching the masses.

As the breakfast ended, it was time for a visit to see the affiliate posters from each state and to attend the breakout sessions. The sessions offered a wealth of sharing and insight into teaching tricks, using technology, discussing remedial strategies, and applying "Common Core" methods in the college classroom. Some of these included: using the game Angry Birds to apply Physics concepts and variables to graphs, students speeding through remedial math "Boot Camp" and back on track in one year as opposed to two, using snacks to teach statistics and real world applications and graphing mathematical findings, among many others.

There were also several raffle drawings held at the breakfast, and our own **Carol Gudauskas** won a free conference registration to the 41st National AMATYC conference Held in New Orleans, Louisiana on November 19-22, 2016. The conference theme is "Jazz It Up" and will be located at the Sheraton hotel. So plan now to "let the good times roll," and "Jazz It Up" together next year in New Orleans!

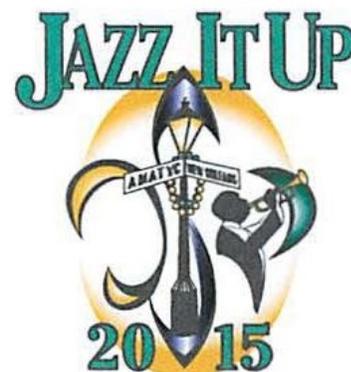


Herb Gross, AMATYC Founding President, receives the Herb Gross Lifetime Achievement Award from Nancy Sattler, President.



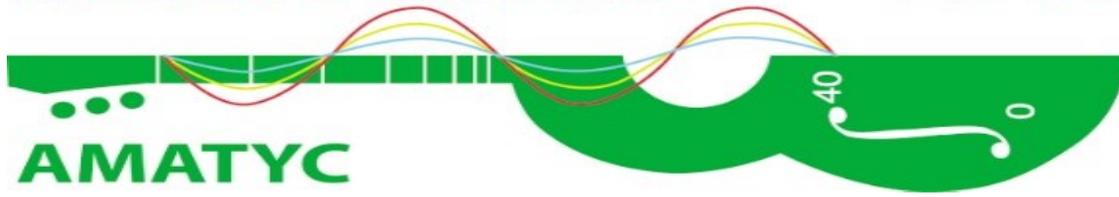
Above 2014 AlaMATYC affiliate Poster

Below Carol Gudauskas winning the raffle to next year's conference.



# MATHEMATICS: MUSIC TO MY EARS

# NASHVILLE 2014



## Picture Page of 40th Annual AMATYC Conference November 13-16, 2014



Welcome to  
the Southeast  
Regional  
Luncheon  
Nancy Rivers, VP





# FSCC ENGINEERING STUDENTS GO TO NASA

The Faulkner State Engineering Club had an exciting 4 days in Huntsville at the NASA BalloonSat Workshop held at the Space and Rocket Center last weekend. Faulkner State had 10 students attend the workshop under the supervision of Catherine Garretson and Tod Childs of the mathematics division. The students had hands on experience programming, building, launching, and retrieving an experiment weather balloon.

The students attached a Go-Pro camera to the balloon and gathered pictures every 10 seconds. The balloon traveled 20 miles into the Stratosphere before bursting. The students followed the balloon for 2 1/2 hours which landed in Adairsville, Georgia. They retrieved the balloon from someone's back yard.

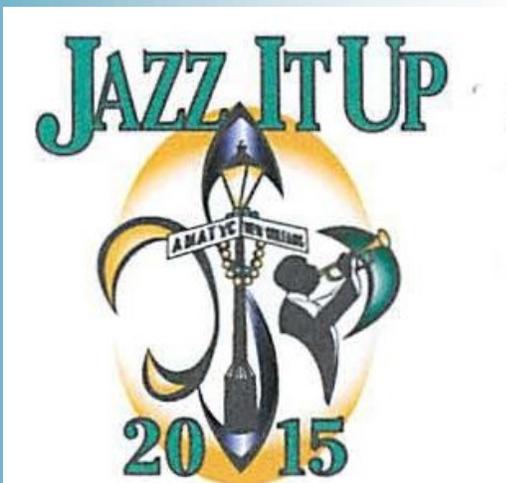
The students had to build a sensor board soldering different sensors and support components to a circuit board. They programmed the board to store, retrieve, and print data. The purpose of this workshop was to encourage students to pursue careers in science, mathematics, and engineering. The student expenses were paid by The University of South Alabama with ASCENT funding.



Photo from the balloon 20 miles into the Stratosphere.



## 2015 AMATYC Conference New Orleans, LA



It is time to begin planning for the 2015 National AMATYC conference coming this fall. We plan to “let the good times roll” in NOLA and “JAZZ IT UP” with fellow colleagues from across the nation. We are very fortunate that the last two national conferences have been so close to home. Let’s represent the great state of Alabama well at this year’s event. I enjoyed last year’s conference immensely, and I am already looking forward to this year’s meeting in New Orleans, LA on Nov 19-22. Go to <http://www.amatyc.org> for more information.

# President's Corner

It is an honor to be your president for the 2014-2015 year. After attending the AMATYC conference in Nashville, I am reminded how important it is to get away from the monotony of it all and to participate in professional development opportunities that awaken you to engaging instructional strategies that work for your students, and then, in turn, make you a better mathematics instructor. After all, we should strive to learn constantly, like our current theme implies: *Learning to Infinity*. My goal is to at least take one thing away from each conference session, and I usually do. As a result of going to the conferences, attending the variety of workshops and seminars, and networking with fellow mathematicians, I have become a better mathematics instructor. I express this because I know firsthand of the impact it has had on me, although I also understand the sacrifices that one makes before he or she decides to step away from work for such an event. However, it is the continuum of learning in these very settings that allows “iron to sharpen iron.” So I invite you to awaken your instructional horizons by attending the 2015 AlaMATYC on Friday March 6th at Faulkner State Community College in Fairhope, Alabama. By networking with fellow mathematics instructors, I am sure we will all take away something that makes it worth our while. We look forward to hearing some of your ideas at this year’s conference. If you are not presenting, perhaps you will volunteer to be a president. Whatever you decide, we hope to see you, as well as all community colleges represented at this year’s conference.



2015-2015 AlaMATYC  
President  
Shawanda Thomas Ph.D.  
Lawson State  
Community College



The **Alabama**  
Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges