

Spring 2011  
Summer 2011



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Does your  
math  
department  
have a  
webpage?

If so, don't  
forget to  
create a link  
to  
AlaMATYC's  
website.

[www.ala.matyc.org](http://www.ala.matyc.org)



## 2011 Conference Measures Up



*Above: Lawson's President, Dr. Perry Ward, and AlaMATYC Executive Board members Annette Cook, Jim Gleason, and Calvin Briggs.*

The 2011 AlaMATYC Conference, held at Lawson State Community College on February 14, 2011, boasted great weather, a comfortable setting, and *fun, fun, fun*—that is, if you love mathematics, of course. There were some interesting presentation topics to choose from including Annette Cook's *Lighten Up*, which demonstrated how to engage students by integrating humor into the classroom. Shywanda Moore, math instructor at Shelton, explained how

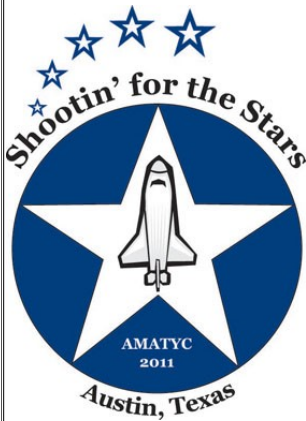
mnemonic techniques could ease student's cognitive overload in her presentation entitled *Students Attaining Difficult Mathematics by Employing Psychological Techniques*, which is the acronym PEMDAS backwards. In addition, there were awesome give-a-ways to be had, and representatives from iLearn, Cengage, Hawkes, thinkwell, McGraw-Hill, and Pearson were present to show their support. Dr. Herbert Riedel, president of Wallace Community College, was the keynote speaker. Many were surprised to learn that he is too a mathematician. Surely, you wouldn't want to miss next year's conference!

### 2012 Conference Topics:

The 2012 conference will be held at Athens State University. Please help us plan by sharing any specific topics you would like discussed at the conference. E-mail suggestions to [cbriggs@lawsonstate.edu](mailto:cbriggs@lawsonstate.edu).



*Conference participants seemed to enjoy themselves.*



**SAVE THE DATE!!**  
**37th AMATYC Annual Conference**

**Austin, TX**

**November 10-13, 2011**

**Conference Theme: *Shootin' for the Stars***

Pictures from  
 AlaMATYC  
 Conference



*Hawke representatives showcase repertoire of resources.*

**Factoring, Fractions, Formulas—Oh, My!**

I can usually spot the exact moment a student is frustrated in my class--when they are overwhelmed with the material and don't understand a concept. I get the infamous "when am I ever going to use this?" question. Usually, this "trending topic" occurs in my intermediate algebra course when students are inundated with factoring, fractional expressions, and formulas.

I wish I had the perfect response customized for each individual student. For the nursing student, I may explain how ratios

and proportions can be used to calculate the correct medicine dosages.

For the English major, I could say that using fractions plays a role in learning probability and statistics and how statistics is essential when publishing research. Right?!

And I imagine the perfect light bulb moment from each student as a response to my response.

I believe it is my responsibility as an instructor to make the math relevant--not just teach it. I could use the wisdom of other experienced faculty. Send an e-mail to

[stthomas@lawsonstate.edu](mailto:stthomas@lawsonstate.edu) explaining how you respond to the "when am I ever going to use this?" question.

Note: Your responses may be included in the upcoming newsletter. Thanks in advance.

Written By:  
 Dr. Shawanda Thomas  
 Math Instructor  
 Lawson State Community College

Want to submit an article for the newsletter? E-mail all articles to [stthomas@lawsonstate.edu](mailto:stthomas@lawsonstate.edu)



*iLearn representative demonstrates the use of software.*

**Annette Cook 4 Vice-President**



Annette Cook, Past-President of AlaMATYC, is running for Regional Vice-President of the southeastern region.

**Good Job, Annette!**  
**We hope you win.**

