



HAMTE Crossroads

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TEACHER
EDUCATORS

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Reflections from the HAMTE President



HAMTE members have had a productive and exciting start of 2014. It was great to see many of you at the AMTE affiliates meeting in February, and also see that HAMTE members were presenting at the conference and involved in AMTE committees. At the State level several members of our organization served in committees reviewing the mathematics standards. HAMTE members also provided feedback to IDOE during the timeframe established for public feedback. This was a difficult and time consuming process and I know that those of you who participated in this effort were dedicated to ensure that our State has mathematics standards that are of high quality. We are thankful for your efforts. The Indiana Department of Education has released correlation guides that describe how the Indiana 2014 Mathematics Standards differ from the previous Indiana Standards and from the Common Core Standards (<http://www.doe.in.gov/standards/resources>).

This year HAMTE collaborated with the mathematics education faculty at Indiana University Bloomington, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Purdue University, and Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus to host the third Indiana Mathematics Education Research Symposium (IMERS) on Friday March 28. The IMERS symposium was a success, and it was great to have the chance to get together and learn about the research being conducted by mathematics educators in Indiana. It would be wonderful to see HAMTE members have an increased presence at this symposium in years to come.

The HAMTE algebra research group has developed a vision for the Indiana Algebra Partnership, a statewide, community-based, algebra-focused partnership designed to: (1) enhance the mathematical opportunities for students in grades 6-10, and (2) engage community partners in enhancing the understanding of algebra across the community. They are in the process of looking for funding to continue work on this effort.

This year will be a year of transition for HAMTE officers; we will be looking for a new treasurer, as Sue Mau will end her term. We will also be looking for a new President Elect. I encourage you to nominate HAMTE members for these positions and to consider serving in one of these roles.

The NCTM regional meeting will take place in Indianapolis Oct 29 – 31, 2014. We will have our annual HAMTE meeting concurrently on Wednesday Oct 29. The HAMTE business meeting will be from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and we plan to go out to dinner at 7:30 p.m. after the opening session. There will be space for working groups to meet from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., more details to follow.

— Enrique Galindo

Best Practices for Online Teaching, Part II

— Kathryn G. Shafer, Ball State University

Below are video and audio suggestions for teaching in an online environment.

Video/Visual Communication - Webcams

I use webcams on a limited basis. At the beginning of the semester, webcams are used voluntarily to establish a personal connection during introductions. It also helps everyone put a face with a voice. As my goal is audio supported screen sharing, seeing every student's face all at once is a distraction. Video pods also take up screen space and bandwidth. When using webcams, the following guidelines apply:

- Lighting is an issue if you are using a webcam. Note that you need to be front lit or side lit so you are not in the shadow. A back lit setting will make you almost impossible to see.
- Take care with overhead lights when your webcam might be angled toward the ceiling. When possible, turn off the ceiling lights.
- Sunlight provides natural light, but test ahead of time because it can cause glare.
- A neutral backdrop is effective and less distracting for the viewers. I suggest hanging a dark sheet on the wall behind you.
- Create an introductory video to your course that shows you talking or at least your picture. Providing a visual connection while outlining course expectations is important and can be found in most all online course evaluation rubrics.

Visual communication is important. Gather pictures of your students to share in a private online location as this helps foster community.

Audio Communication

- Log in early. Time before class begins is your chance to connect with students who arrive early as well as your time to get "set up". Students have the opportunity to chat with each other while you get organized. Be ready to small talk about sports or the weather to get a conversation started. If you are asked about a particular assignment, determine if it is an individual question that can be answered on a one-to-one basis, or if the entire class needs to hear the response.
- Require students to log in and be ready at least five minutes before class starts. They can walk away from their machine, but they should be logged in.
- Complete mic-checks in the first few minutes. This provides a personal greeting to each student. In large classes, you might only check microphones for course assistants (more about this in part three).
- Audio difficulties are rare with the newer programs, but they will happen. First, have the student reconnect their headset and check the volume setting. The next thing to try is to have the student log out and log back in. Also, have them use a different browser.
- Another issue I have encountered is a slow wireless connection where audio will cut in and out. To address this, my syllabus clearly states that a hard-wired service is required.
- I require headsets because background noise can be an issue. Some students will work in a quiet room, but others will have dogs barking or children talking. Personally, my students do a good job of muting themselves when I let them know it is necessary (or I mute them). Computers might produce an echo because the speaker is too close to the microphone. This is also a good reason for a headset.
- If you use a headset, position the microphone at or above nose level. This will prevent the sound of your breathing going out to your students. Establish this as a norm in your classroom. Also, have a tissue handy if you have the sniffles.

The goal is to reduce distractions so the focus is on course material. The best advice I can provide is to test things out in advance. I provide "test" sessions at set times, one to two days before class starts. I encourage students to run the audio wizard and I check my headset by using the test call feature in Skype.

Editor's Note:

This is the second of three installments in which Kathy Shafer shares her suggestions for teaching mathematics online.

Previous issues of HAMTE Crossroads are available on our website www.HAMTE.org.

If you have your own best classroom practices, consider sharing them in a future issue of HAMTE Crossroads.

E-mail them to tmiller@uindy.edu

ANNUAL HAMTE MEETING @ NCTM REGIONAL

ICTM is hosting the NCTM regional meeting in Indianapolis Oct 29 – 31, 2014 in lieu of its annual conference. HAMTE will meet concurrently on Wednesday Oct 29:

- ◆ HAMTE working groups from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (topics TBA)
- ◆ HAMTE business meeting from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- ◆ HAMTE dinner at 7:30 p.m. at a local restaurant (following the opening NCTM session)

Watch your e-mail for further details closer to the conference. Registration info is available at <http://www.nctm.org/Indianapolis/>

Volunteers Needed for NCTM Regional

ICTM will be hosting the NCTM Regional Conference at the Indianapolis Convention Center on October 29 -31, 2014. Volunteers are needed who are willing to share a few hours of their time to help attendees find needed resources and sessions. Please invite faculty who teach math/math methods in your department to assist.

Please also invite your education students to volunteer. College students may attend a day of the conference without cost if they help as volunteers.

Interested parties should contact Dr. Beth Moore at bmoore@franklincollege.edu.

HAMTE Campus Representatives

HAMTE members represent 14 campuses across the state. Each campus has a representative to assist in communication with the HAMTE board.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Ball State University | Sheryl Stump |
| Hanover College | Kay Williams |
| Indiana State University | Liz Brown |
| Indiana University – Bloomington | Pete Kloosterman |
| Indiana University – Southeast | Virginia Fraser |
| Indiana University – Purdue University Columbus | Kathy Essex |
| Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis | Eric Tillema |
| Indiana University – Purdue University Fort Wayne | Betsy Berry |
| Purdue University Calumet | Marcia Weinhold |
| Purdue University North Central | David Feikes |
| Purdue University West Lafayette | Signe Kastberg |
| Taylor University | Ron Benbow |
| University of Southern Indiana | Rick Hudson |
| University of Indianapolis | Jean Lee |

Connect with HAMTE!

Find HAMTE online at www.hamte.org or on IDOE's Learning Connections: <https://learningconnection.doe.in.gov> (Hoosier Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators Community)

Submit an article to the newsletter, *HAMTE Crossroads*. E-mail your submission to Travis K. Miller, Newsletter Editor, at tmiller@uindy.edu. We now publish three issues per year (September, January and May).

[Join HAMTE!](#) Dues are \$20 (\$10 for students and emeritus faculty) and membership runs October 15 through October 15.

Campus Updates across Indiana...

Indiana University—Bloomington

Graduate Celebration. IUB had an end-of-semester celebration for doctoral students Arnulfo Pérez, Nancy Schoolcraft, Crystal Vesperman, and Zulifye Zeybek, all of whom will be finishing dissertations and moving on to new opportunities this summer.

Project Launch. The GREENE STEM project begins this summer with a week-long professional development starting June 3rd. The project has the goal of improving STEM education in grades 4 - 12 in Greene County Schools. The 3-year project is led by Enrique Galindo (Mathematics Education, IU Bloomington), Kevin Pilgrim (Mathematics, IU Bloomington), and Valarie Akerson (Science Education, IU Bloomington). Other team members are Jean Lee (Mathematics Education, University of Indianapolis), Gina Yoder (Mathematics Education, IUPUI), Shabnam Kavousian (Mathematics, IU Bloomington), and Marlies Gerber (Mathematics, IU Bloomington).

Promotion. Amy Hackenberg was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure.

Faculty Induction. Enrique Galindo was selected as a member of The Faculty Colloquium on Excellence in Teaching (FACET). FACET is a community of Indiana University faculty members who are committed to being—and helping others to be—exceptional teachers. Galindo was inducted at the May 16th FACET retreat in Indianapolis.

Purdue University— West Lafayette

NSF Grant. Laura Bofferding has been Awarded a 5-year NSF Faculty Early Career Development grant entitled "CAREER: Leveraging Contrasting Cases to Investigate Integer Understanding."

Tenure Granted. Rachael Kenney and Jill Newton were both awarded tenure effective this summer.

Scholarship Awarded. Hyunyi Jung was awarded the Dean's Doctoral Scholarship.

Symposium Participation. Faculty and students from both IUPUI and Purdue attended an April symposium at UIC entitled, "Understanding Multiple Perspectives in Mathematics Education Research: Interrogating Privilege and Power in the Field." Two Purdue students, Hyunyi Jung and Melike Yigit, presented their research. Beth Herbel-Eisenmann (Michigan State University), Rochelle Gutierrez (University of Illinois), and Danny Martin and Rico Gutstein, both from UIC, presented.

University of Indianapolis

Promotion. Travis Miller was granted tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.

HAMTE Members Serve AMTE

Several HAMTE members currently serve on AMTE Committees. Feel free to contact them with pertinent issues to take to their next meeting.

- Virginia Fraser, vfraser@ius.edu, Communications Committee, 2013-2016
- Enrique Galindo, egalindo@indiana.edu, Communications Committee, 2012-2015
- Jean Lee, jslee@uindy.edu, Affiliate Connections Committee, 2014-2017
- Travis K. Miller, tmiller@uindy.edu, Membership Committee (Chair), 2012-2015



HAMTE Members met at the affiliates breakfast on the final morning of the 2014 AMTE conference in Irvine, CA.