

SVCCM Report

by Mark Harbison, Sacramento City College (SCC)

The 4th annual Sacramento Valley Community College Mathematics (SVCCM) conference took place on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at SCC. More than 50 people enjoyed an opportunity to hear a variety of speakers and professionally network with each other.

Chris Goff from the University of the Pacific (UOP) spoke on “Writing in the Mathematics Classroom”. Marty McFadden presented Monte Carlo models for retirement planning. Deb Bryant discussed national math education standards. Wei-Jen Harrison motivated us to use “grading as a teaching tool”—not just for grades’ sake. Michael Sanchez presented new geometric results about ellipses and focus points. And Mark Webster’s “real-world math” demonstrated interesting examples of music, DNA testing and human face dimensions.

Here are some highlights from the comment cards:

“Great program.”

“Let’s do it again! Enjoyed!”

“A great, informative, useful talk. Fantastic!”

“WOW!! More of this would be great.”

“It got me thinking about how I teach and how I can do a better job!”

“This is my favorite conference. Good networking and good presentations.”

Food was generously sponsored by Texas Instruments, McGraw-Hill, Houghton-Mifflin, Pearson Education and Thomson Higher Education Publishers.

Thanks also go to door prize donors: SCC College Store, Texas Instruments, Starbucks Coffee, Crepeville Restaurant, Taylor’s Market and the SCC Café.

SVCCM depends 100% on unpaid volunteers to arrange facilities, edit & print a program, and correspond with speakers, publishers, caterers and participants. SVCCM is grateful to Dan Balaguy, Paul Andre and John Thoo for hosting in past years (at Sierra College, American River College, and Yuba College, respectively).

Butte College will host in 2008, thanks to Lisa Duke, Phoebe Hartt & Mark Mavis.

We are interested in finding hosts for 2009 and beyond—perhaps at Cosumnes River College (CRC). Please contact Mark Harbison (harbism@scc.losrios.edu) or John Thoo (jthoo@yccd.edu) anytime. It is a very rewarding experience to see a nice day of professional development specifically for mathematics in our Sacramento Region community colleges.