

SVCCM Report

The 5th annual Sacramento Valley Community College Mathematics (SVCCM) Conference took place at Butte College on Saturday, February 23, 2008. Laurie Kincheloe, Phoebe Hartt, Mark Mavis, and Lisa Duke hosted the conference with financial support from Houghton Mifflin, Pearson Education, McGraw-Hill, and Cengage. About sixty people from eight community colleges, CSU Chico, and UC Riverside took their chances with the incoming storm and made the drive to attend the conference.

The keynote speaker, Margaret Owens, introduced us to Catalan Numbers. Our honored guest, Bill Fisher, took us on “An Excursion into Algebra” using horses, ducks and giraffes to help us recognize a need for binomial expansion, and Rich Bigler and Mark Mavis got our morning off to a good start with presentations on the Riemann Hypothesis and “The 43 cent Soda Machine”, respectively. Paul Andre, Cindy Erickson, and Steve Gonzalez discussed their experience during the open forum with Math 315, a class designed for students with interest in becoming math teachers. Other topics mentioned during the open forum were a Math Anxiety Course presented by Juliet Hauser, and Laurie Kincheloe shared information about Math Awareness Week at Butte College.

We would like to thank all the presenters, the Butte College Bookstore and Barnes and Noble for prize donations, and the publishers listed above who made the continental breakfast and lunch possible. Thank you also to Mark Harbison and John Thoo for guiding us through the conference planning process.

Cosumnes River College will host the 2009 SVCCM Conference thanks to Cindy Erickson and her colleagues. We hope to see you all again and some new faces, too.