



A "STONE SOUP" OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

by Patrick Averbek

During these tough economic times, there have been many comparisons to the Great Depression. If you happen to be age-mature enough, you may recall the stories of how you, your parents, or your grandparents survived the difficult time. Two common means were to thin the soup or to gather with neighbors to pool resources. Of course, pooling resources was more beneficial. As an example, "Stone Soup," in which everyone in a community contributes an ingredient, was more nourishing than a thin soup.

As your institutions ask you to "thin the soup," keep in mind that AMATYC is working hard to build the collaborations that support you in your teaching. AMATYC has been working with other national organizations and groups to create a professional development stone soup. AMATYC would like to acknowledge the following people whose work has been valuable in developing collaborative professional development activities:

- Martha Aliaga and Rick Peterson of the American Statistical Association (ASA) for their work in providing AMATYC's first webinar;
- Dennis Pearl, Rob Gould, and Jean Scott of the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education (CAUSE) for sponsoring not only six traveling workshops, but two summer institutes to be conducted over a two-year span;
- Rob Kimball and Kathy Mowers of the *Right Stuff* for their work on obtaining and coordinating the NSF-funded workshops on college algebra; and
- Christie Gilliland, Rebecca Hartzler and Deann Leoni of the Mathematics Across the Community College Curriculum (MAC³) project for providing eight fully funded traveling workshops that will be conducted this spring at various institutions across the USA and Canada.

AMATYC greatly appreciates the contributions of these people and the support of their organizations that are allowing AMATYC to provide these professional development opportunities to you. Also, keep an eye and ear open for future announcements of additional collaborations that are being developed for the upcoming 2009 Annual Conference in Las Vegas.

Lastly, when you are trying to think of ways to keep professional growth a possibility at your institution, an AMATYC Traveling Workshop can bring the broth for your local Stone Soup. Especially during times when every dollar counts, an AMATYC Traveling Workshop is a cost-effective way for supporting and maintaining professional growth at your institution. For more information, contact Patrick Averbek, the Traveling Workshop Coordinator, at patrick.averbeck@edcc.edu or 425.640.1093.