



**LEARNING MATHEMATICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA:  
Before and Today**

**Math Technology Learning Center, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL  
December 1, 2007**

**Preliminary Agenda**

- 7:45 – 8:15** Registration Check-in and Refreshments
- 8:15 – 8:40** Welcome and Introductions (Dean Olin)
- 8:40 – 9:00** Carolyn Jarmon, Senior Associate, National Center for Academic Transformation
- 9:00 – 9:50** Presentation by UA

The University of Alabama faced similar problems in mathematics as other institutions in the United States. Many students were not prepared to learn college level math when they arrived on campus nor were they successful as they tried to master the necessary concepts. Vice President for Research, Joe Benson, will provide an overview of the redesign of mathematics at the University of Alabama as they successfully solved the “Math Problem.” The presentation will include the process they used, the learning results they have achieved and the cost reductions they enjoy.

**9:50 – 10:00** Break

**10:00 – 10:50** Small Group Session #1

The participants will be divided into two groups.

- Group A-- open discussion with UA administrators (Olin, Benson and Wu)

UA administrators will lead a discussion about the administrative issues and challenges they faced in establishing the Math Technology Center and how they continue to build this facility to serve more students.

- Group B-- open discussion with UA Math faculty (Evers, Glass, Mai and Steiner)

UA Math faculty will lead a discussion about the faculty issues and challenges they faced including the integration of new instructors, training issues with TAs and undergraduate learning assistants.

**11:00 – 11:50** Small Group Session #2

Groups will switch and the discussions will be repeated.

- Group A -- open discussion with math faculty (Evers, Glass, Mai and Steiner)
- Group B -- open discussion with administrators (Olin, Benson and Wu)

**12:00 – 1:00** LUNCH

**1:00 – 3:15** Working sessions

Attendees will have the opportunity to select one of two sessions which are designed to provide hands on experience with various aspects of the software. Faculty and staff from the University of Alabama will lead these sessions, describing what they do and what choices they have made and answering questions of participants.

**1:00 – 2:00**

- A: Course Compass-customization and organization

UA Faculty (Boxmeyer, Chambless, Kraft, Mai, Ponta and Steiner) will describe what they have done to customize MyMathLab and why they have made these changes.

- B: Course Compass-MathXL (homework, quizzes, gradebook and Exam Builder)

UA Faculty (Bishop, Evers, Glass, Midkiff, Moore, Nichols) will talk about how they and students use these aspects of the software, what benefits there are and what special aspects have been particularly useful. They will also talk about how to build exams which provide similar experiences for students but different problems and questions. They will demonstrate the system.

**2:00 – 2:10** Break

**2:10 – 3:10**

- A: Course Compass-MathXL (homework, quizzes, gradebook and Exam Builder)

UA Faculty (Bishop, Evers, Glass, Midkiff, Moore, Nichols) will talk about how they and students use these aspects of the software, what benefits there are and what special aspects have been particularly useful. They will also talk about how to build exams which provide similar experiences for students but different problems and questions. They will demonstrate the system.

- B: Course Compass-customization and organization

UA Faculty (Boxmeyer, Chambless, Kraft, Mai, Ponta and Steiner) will describe what they have done to customize MyMathLab and why they have made these changes.

**3:15 – 3:30** Closing