



The TMTA Bulletin



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Winter 2020

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President's Message

Hello, I hope you are well. I am amazed each day how quickly time is passing. Our joint fall conference with TSTA in Murfreesboro was an exciting event with wonderful sessions, speakers, and vendors.

Each year seems to disappear more quickly. We are two months in to a new decade, which brings several interesting calendar events in 2020. February 2, 2020 began our year with a palindrome, Saturday, October 31 is a blue moon, and most importantly, we are celebrating 100 years of NCTM in Chicago April 1-4.

My goal for this year is to step back and intentionally make time for things that bring me joy. Collaboration with fellow math educators, helping my struggling learners gain confidence in their ability to think on their own, and celebrating the achievements of our mathematics students are at the top of that list. Education in our current time is challenging at any level. I would urge you to find ways to stay inspired and recharge yourself as often as possible.

I look forward to seeing you in Memphis at Memphis University School on September 18-19 this fall for our annual TMTA Annual Conference.



TMTA Annual Conference Information

Sponsored by:
TMTA and MACOTOM

Location:
Memphis University School
September 18-19, 2020

Speaker Proposals will be available soon. To apply to speak, complete your speaker proposal form at <https://tmta.wildapricot.org/Conference>. If you have questions about the form or submission process, please contact Steve Gadbois at steve.gadbois@musowls.org.

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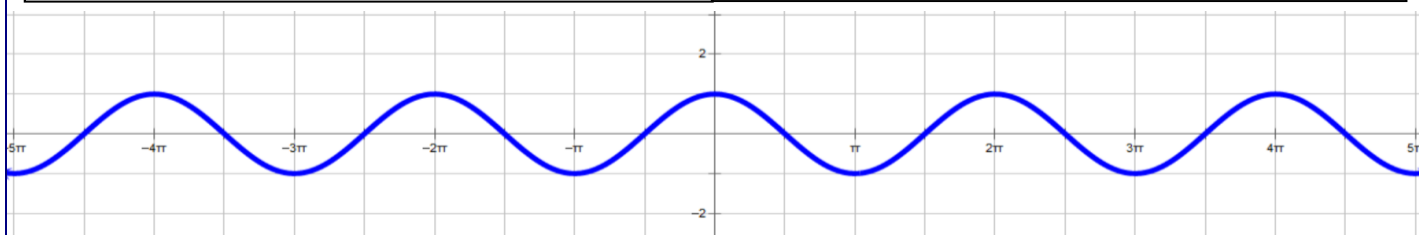
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Calendar of Events

High School Math Contest	April 7, 2020	
Middle School Math Contest	April 9, 2020	
NCTM Annual Conference	April 1-4, 2020 and Oct. 21-24, 2020	
NCTM Leader's Conference	July 20-22, 2020	New Orleans, LA
TMTA Mathematics Conference	Sept 19-20, 2020	Memphis, TN

So-So in High School Math,
So What Happens in College Math?

Submission by:
Patrick Perdew
Associate Professor of Mathematics
Center for Teaching and Learning
Austin Peay State University

Often people struggle with mathematics. Algebra is a challenging subject and students often have challenges with it. The ACT and SAT exams required by most universities have a math portion that tests their knowledge of algebra and geometry. With the struggles that some students have on these topics, it is not surprising that their scores may be lower on the math ACT than university admissions require. Some universities do not admit students with a low ACT in math, or a low overall ACT score. For universities who admit students with a lower ACT score in math, many offer a supplementary program for helping these students be successful in their college-level mathematics classes.

The Structured Learning Assistance (SLA) program has been developed to enable students' success in subjects where they have low admission scores. At a particular state university in Tennessee, special enhanced sections of courses are offered which have workshops that meet twice a week, in addition to the regular lecture meetings. Attendance by students at the workshops is mandatory. While the SLA program has enhanced sections for English and enhanced sections of other courses to facilitate college reading skills, this brief discussion focuses on enhanced Mathematics sections.

If a student has an ACT Math score that is 18 or lower, he or she must take an enhanced Math course at this particular state university. The Math courses which have enhanced sections are Math 1010, Mathematical Thought and Practice (a core math option for students not going into either a natural or social science major or business) and Math 1530, Elements of Statistics. Also, Math 1710, Precalculus Algebra, just had a pilot program during the fall 2019 semester with an enhanced section for the first time.

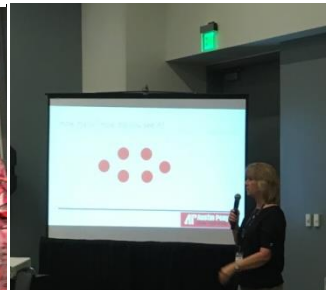
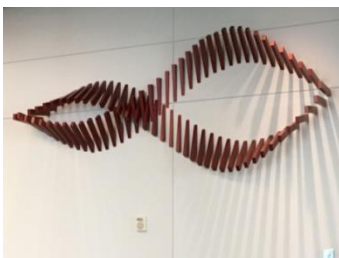
In the workshops, SLA Leaders reinforce the topics the professor covered by going over examples. Also, the enhanced sections have additional assignments that students must work. These extra assignments are algebra-related and they help ameliorate the shortfalls that students have on those topics.

The SLA Leaders are peers of the students. To qualify to be an SLA Leader, a student demonstrates proficiency in their discipline with the completion of the course they facilitate with an A or B, or a high grade in a higher-level math course, and also have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher. They also must be trained at sessions which are given before the start of the semester. The SLA Leaders become certified after finishing the training and completing several hours of instruction in the workshops they conduct.

Once a student successfully completes the enhanced section with a passing grade, they receive credit for the course itself, and a statement is put in their record that the remediation needed because of their low Math ACT score has been completed. If you or your students would like more information on the SLA process, please feel free to contact Patrick Perdew at perdewp@apsu.edu.

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## Scenes from the 2019 NCTM Nashville Regional Conference



## **TMTA Scholarship Opportunities**

### **Dr. Henry Frandsen Scholarship for Teachers**

#### **Criteria:**

- Applicants must be committed to teaching mathematics in Tennessee at either the secondary or elementary level.
- Applicants must have declared an appropriate major at their institution
- Deadline May 1<sup>st</sup>

#### **Recent Past Winners:**

- 2013: Taylor Satterfield
- 2014: Leanna Ruth Murdoch
- 2015: Elizabeth Barlow (UT Knoxville)
- 2016: Courtney Wright (MTSU) and Hillary Grant (UT Knoxville)
- 2018: Allison Brown and Jenna Dula
- 2019: Isamar Rachal (Austin Peay State University)
- 2020: Now accepting applications at <https://tmta.wildapricot.org/page-18062>

## **TMTA Grant Opportunities**

### **\$1000 classroom Mini-grant**

#### **Criteria:**

- Applicant's school or district must demonstrate need;
- Applicant must attend the TMTA Fall Conference to receive your award; and
- Applicant must speak at the next TMTA Fall Conference about your use of the mini-grant.
- Application deadline is May 1.

#### **Recent Past Winners:**

- 2013: Tammi Terry
- 2014: Lea Keith
- 2015: Emily McDonald
- 2016: Deana Secrest
- 2017: Teresa Agee
- 2018: No Award Given
- 2019: No Award Given
- 2020: NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS at <https://tmta.wildapricot.org/Grant>

## **TMTA Teacher/Scholar Award**

***Are you pursuing an advanced degree to improve your mathematics teaching? There are scholarship funds available to support your learning!***

The TMTA Teacher/Scholar Award is awarded to a TMTA member currently teaching in Tennessee and pursuing either a Masters, Ed.S., or doctoral degree to improve his or her mathematics teaching.

The award includes a \$1000 Scholarship and free TMTA membership for a year.

All you need to do is click on this link: <https://tmta.wildapricot.org/page-18062> and follow the directions on the application. The deadline for the application is May 1. Don't delay!

*We want to support you in your pursuit of teaching excellence!*



## Test Writers Needed!

High school math test writers are needed! Each of the six exams (Algebra I/Integrated I, Algebra II/Integrated III, Geometry/Integrated II, Precalculus, Calculus and Advanced Topics, Statistics) is a 40 question multiple choice test, with each question having five possible responses. Writers should include additional questions for consideration. TMTA will pay a single stipend of \$500 to the author once the test has been submitted, reviewed, corrected if necessary, and accepted for use. Qualified applicants should work in a post secondary setting and have at least a year of experience. A test writer guideline is available for interested applicants.

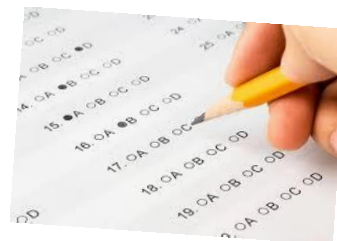
If you are interested, please e-mail the Examinations Director, David Ray.

### Examinations Director

David Ray

Department of Mathematics and Statistics

E-mail: [davidray@utm.edu](mailto:davidray@utm.edu)



If you would like copies of some previous tests, these are available on the TMTA website:

<https://tmta.wildapricot.org/Contests>.

## Mathematics Standards Update:

The state legislators have passed and written into law that the standards will be updated every six years. Currently, the mathematics standards are under review. Public comments are being reviewed and the standards are being revised by the Educator Advisory Team. The revised standards will be implemented in 2022.

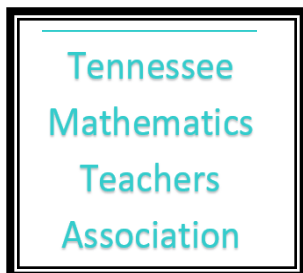
Additionally, the high school curriculum is being reviewed by the Tennessee Mathematics Alignment Group. The TMAG team will make recommendations concerning which mathematics courses should be offered in high school to prepare students for college level mathematics. There is a discussion currently centered around whether there will continue to exist two separate paths in the state: traditional versus integrated.

Submitted by:

Jackie Vogel

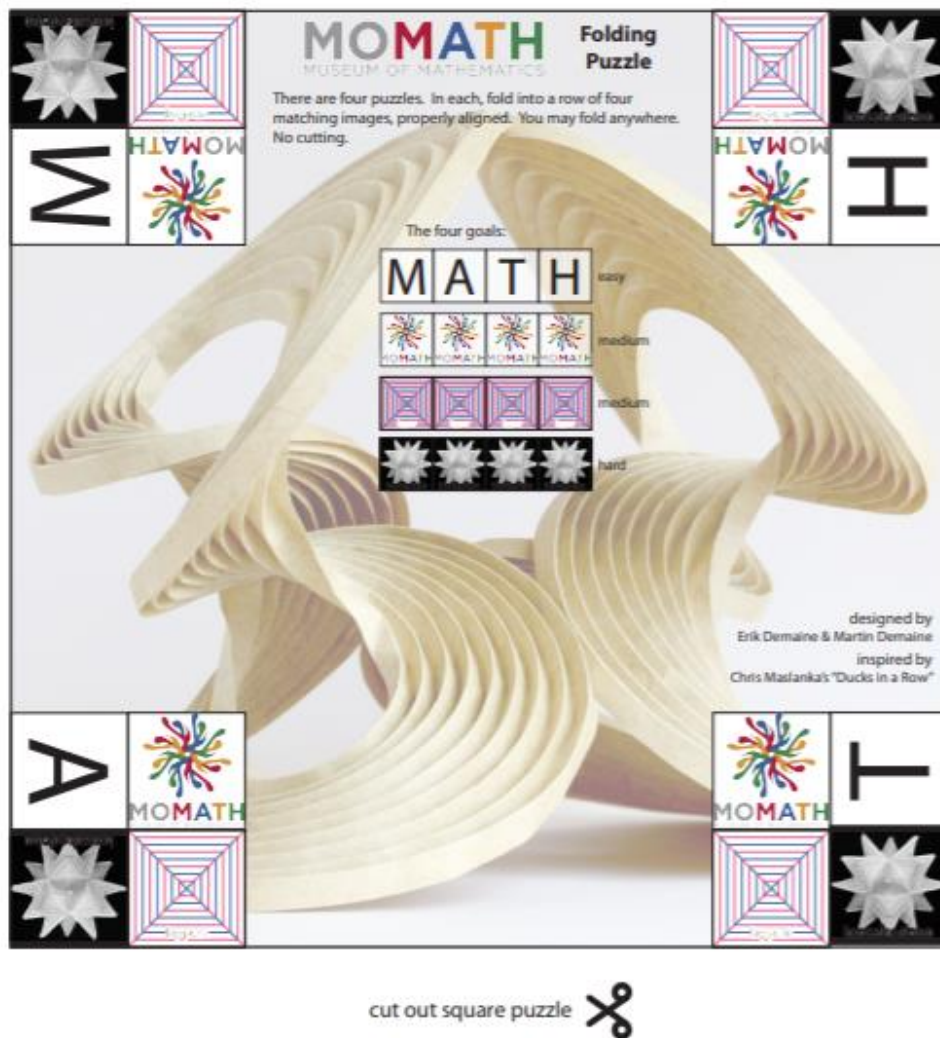
Austin Peay State University

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Join the TMTA Facebook page at
Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association – TMTA!



Museum of Mathematics Folding Puzzle:

Directions: There are four puzzles. In each, fold into a row of four matching images, properly aligned. You may fold anywhere. No cutting.



If you would like more puzzles, visit the Museum of Mathematics at <https://momath.org/>.

If you would like to share information, lesson plan ideas, or tips for instruction, please email Jackie Vogel at vogelj@apsu.edu.