

# THE NUMBER LINE

January 2012

[www.lamath.org](http://www.lamath.org)



LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION of  
TEACHERS of MATHEMATICS

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Look for this icon on articles which spotlight members of our Executive Council who work tirelessly as volunteers on behalf of the organization.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The LATM 2011 conference, *Learning, Teaching, and Applying Mathematics*, held October 19-21 in Monroe, was a huge success. Educators from throughout the state gathered to attend over 140 mathematics professional development sessions and workshops and visit a multitude of exhibits. Thank you to all of those who were instrumental in the planning of the conference, presenting the workshops and sessions, or serving as a presider for a session.



At the LATM Awards Luncheon the mayor of Monroe, Jamie Mayo, proclaimed October 20, 2011, as "Louisiana Mathematics Educators' Day." Congratulations to the LATM Outstanding Teachers and finalists who were recognized at the luncheon. (See article in *Teacher Recognitions*.)

At the 2011 LATM Business Meeting, new Executive Council members elected were **Jeffrey Weaver**, President-Elect; **Stacey Magee**, Secretary; **Penny Gennuso**, Vice-President of High Schools; and **Maryanne Smith**, Parliamentarian. Congratulations and thank you for agreeing to serve the organization.

At its November 2011 meeting, the NCTM Affiliate Services Committee selected *The Number Line*, published by LATM, as the winner of the NCTM 2012 Publication Award. **Carolyn Sessions**, newsletter editor, has been provided a free registration to the 2012 NCTM Annual Meeting. She will receive the award on behalf of the organization at the Delegate Assembly on the morning of April 26, 2012, in Philadelphia, PA.

Additional professional development opportunities can be found on the LATM website. Be sure to visit: <http://lamath.org/ProfessionalDevelopment.htm>. This page is updated monthly, so be sure to check it regularly!

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions that will improve our organization, please contact me via e-mail, at the address below.

Wishing you all a wonderful 2012!



Beth Smith

LATM President

[bethsmith1124@gmail.com](mailto:bethsmith1124@gmail.com)



**Neil McAnelly** has served as treasurer for LATM for the past seven years. She is currently Co-Director for the LSU Gordon A. Cain Center for STEM Literacy, an instructor in the LSU Math Department, and Executive Director of the Quality Science and Mathematics (QSM) Grant Program. Prior to teaching at the university level, Neil taught high school mathematics, chemistry and physics in Baton Rouge.



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# TEACHER RECOGNITIONS



## Presidential Awardees and Finalists

The annual Louisiana recognition luncheon was held at the Governor's Mansion on Thursday, September 22nd. The mathematics and science awardees and finalists were joined by school administrators and family members during the luncheon. BESE Executive Director **Catherine Pozniak** congratulated the 2010 Presidential Award winner and state finalists and presented certificates to each on behalf of the BESE members. 2010 Presidential Awardee **Paige Falcon** and state finalist **Lynne Denison** were also recognized during the LATM Awards Luncheon in Monroe on October 20th.

The state 2011 mathematics finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are **Marcia "Lynne" Denison**, a teacher in Calcasieu Parish at J.I. Watson Middle School, and **Alison Drake** and **Scarlett Feinberg**, both teachers at the KIPP Believe Charter School in New Orleans.



*Catherine Pozniak with 2011 mathematics finalists **Scarlett Feinberg**, **Alison Drake**, and **Lynne Denison***

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade mathematics or science teacher can receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Anyone—principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public—may nominate exceptional mathematics or science teachers who are currently teaching grades K-6 for the 2012 Award. Teachers may also apply directly at [www.paemst.org](http://www.paemst.org). The nomination deadline is April 1, 2012. This date gives the nominated teacher time to prepare an application prior to the application submission deadline of May 1, 2012. Secondary school teachers (Grades 7-12) are eligible to apply in 2013. For further information contact Jean May-Brett at [jean.may-brett@la.gov](mailto:jean.may-brett@la.gov).

## LATM Outstanding Teachers Announced

Each year LATM honors outstanding mathematics educators who have shown tremendous dedication to students and a desire to continually grow as a professional. Congratulations to the following professionals were recognized as the LATM Outstanding Teachers at the 2011 Annual Conference.

### Elementary School

**Debbie Reynolds**

Westdale Heights Academic Magnet, Baton Rouge

### Middle School

**Michelle Lakhotia**

Judice Middle School, Lafayette

### High School

**Karen "Kay" Butler**

Patrick F. Taylor Science & Technology Academy, New Orleans

### Colleges

**Mary Lou Jumonville**

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Other educators recognized as 2011 Outstanding Teacher Finalists were:

Elementary School Level: **Marquita Curry**, Abramson Charter, New Orleans  
**Leslie Arceneaux**, Episcopal, Baton Rouge

Middle School Level: **Katherine Aucoin**, Napoleonville Middle, Napoleonville  
**Mindy Guthrie**, Evangel Christian, Shreveport

High School Level **Amanda Lee**, Lafayette High, Lafayette  
**Gretchen Hennessy**, Country Day, Metairie



*Katherine Aucoin, Michelle Lakhota, and Mindy Guthrie are honored.*



*Mary Lou Jumonville receives College Award from Penny Gennuso.*



*Debbie Reynolds accepts Elementary Award as Marquita Curry watches.*



*Kay Butler receives High School Award.*

## National Board Certification

Congratulations to the educators listed below who received National Board Certification in an area of mathematics in 2011.

Name	Certification Area	School Name
<b>Monica Alphonso</b>	Mathematics/Early Adolescence	Anacoco Elementary School
<b>Karen Arbuckle</b>	Mathematics/Early Adolescence	Greenacres Middle School
<b>Marjorie Manuel</b>	Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood	Bastrop High School
<b>Sharrell Nora</b>	Mathematics/Early Adolescence	Broadmoor Middle School
<b>Matthew Owen</b>	Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood	Unknown
<b>Lisa Smothers</b>	Mathematics/Early Adolescence	Zachary High School
<b>Aimee Welch</b>	Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood	LSU Laboratory School

## Louisiana Teachers Accept eMSS Fellowship

Nine beginning middle and high school math teachers in Louisiana accepted an eMSS (e-Mentoring for Student Success) Fellowship to participate in the 2012 online mentoring program sponsored by the New Teacher Academy (<http://www.newteachercenter.org/>). LATM congratulates **Eugenia Cardozo** and **Amie Hobbs**, East Baton Rouge Parish; **Matthew Hammons**, **Alanna Langla**, and **Mitchell Stolier**, Jefferson Parish; **Nettie Archangel** and **Amy Dakin**, Lincoln Parish; **Maura Lewis**, Recovery School District; and **Nicole Voisinet**, St Tammany Parish. Additional teachers will be accepted into the eMSS program this semester.

## Quality Science and Math Program Recipients Announced

The QSM program provides grants of up to \$750 for the purchase of instructional materials for K-12 public school teachers who teach science and mathematics. Congratulations to the following teachers who are the recipients of the 2011-12 mathematics grants. For more information on the QSM program and to see a listing of all recipients, go to <http://cain.lsu.edu/>.

<b>Allen</b>	<b>East Baton Rouge</b>	<b>Morehouse</b>	<b>St. Landry</b>
Tina Bellon	Anita J. Augustus	Maria Yabut	Rachel Smith
Assumption	Stephanie Alvarez	Marjorie Manuel	Rebecca Sonnier
Jenee Blanco	Maria Shingleton	<b>Natchitoches</b>	Darnell Fontenot
Doreen Rivere	<b>Evangeline</b>	Joseph Odum	Tiffany Perry
<b>Avoyelles</b>	Marcella Gallow	<b>Orleans</b>	<b>St. Tammany</b>
Tammy Tassin	Anna Marie Soileau	Amy Vreeland	Edward L. Galiano
Jessica Gauthier	Sherelene Johnson	Mrs. Zulema Taylor-West	Travis Costanza
<b>Bienville</b>	<b>Iberia</b>	Mark Quirk	Laura Haggard
Leslie Mauthé	Jeanie Hebert	Matthew Feigenbaum	Joanna Brockhoff
<b>Bossier</b>	<b>Jefferson</b>	<b>Ouachita</b>	<b>Tangipahoa</b>
Chandra Taylor	Elaine Chauvin	Amy Burton	Miesha M Williams
Toni Sellers	Lisa Valence	Donna Patten	Michelle Miller
<b>Caddo</b>	Hang Pham	M. Hesam Akbarian-Tefaghi	<b>Terrebonne</b>
Karan Hall	Patricia Sumera	Anne B. Parker	Julie Matherne
Tameka Bennett	Kendell Ferrara	Lauren Howe	Tara Portier
Christine Latour	Wendy Diodene	Crystal Stockstill	Katherine Torbert
Mary Bissell	<b>Jefferson Davis</b>	Janitra Underwood	Selema Blanchard
Nicole Nelson	Alice M Hebert	<b>Rapides</b>	Kristi Dardar
<b>Calcasieu</b>	Caryn Murrell	Desiree Colton	Joycelyn Acosta
Sophie Jolene Broxson	<b>Lafayette</b>	Johannah Stokes	<b>Vermilion</b>
Stacie Reed	Amy Carney	Johanna Bowman	Traci Simon
Carmen Edmaiston	Bridget Soumeillan	<b>Sabine</b>	Vernon
Jamie Cooley	Jalel Ben Hmida	Kristi	Donna D. Adams
Kathleen Rose	Brooke Quibodeaux	Kara Stevens	Tanya Jeane
Lana Guidry	Michelle Lakhotia	Terri Cobbs	<b>Washington</b>
Jessica Rivero	<b>Lafourche</b>	Stacy Wilburn	Jennifer McElveen
Selene Landry	Leah Callais	Nancy Dunn	<b>Webster</b>
Normanda Jones	<b>Lincoln</b>	Kelly	Theresa Downs
Brenda Storey-Garrett	Alexis DeFreese	<b>St. Charles</b>	Vicki Martin
Denise Brashear	Sandy Hogan	Michael Lacey	<b>West Baton Rouge</b>
Suanne Jacobs	<b>Livingston</b>	Wendy Rodrigue	Robert Primus
Mica Reinsch	Meghan Fong	Hettie Averite	Robert Seals
Natalie Johnson	Rita Whitehead	Kim Colley	<b>West Carroll</b>
Jade Comeaux	<b>Monroe City</b>		Karen Johnson
<b>DeSoto</b>	Erin Turner		<b>Winn</b>
Teri Yarberry			Jessica Staggs

## Thank You QSM Reviewers

The QSM program depends on having each proposal reviewed by at least two reviewers. The QSM Council thanks the following individuals who volunteered their time to review math proposals.

Luanne Ballou	Christine Hypolite	Julie Nall
Sharon Besson	Mary Lou Jummonville	DesLey Plaisance
Belinda Brand	Rose Kendrick	Terrie Poehl
Michael Broome	Kay Kussman	Emily Rash
Jill Carbo	Inkie Landry	Mary Ann Smith
Robyn Carlin	Stacey Magee	Carolyn Stewart
Cally Hebert Chauvin	Ellen Marino	Cindy Sullivan
Jan Demeyere	Pam Martin	Tanya Sullivan
Ellen Daugherty	Nell McAnelly	Doris Vorholt
Fan Disher	Kay McInnis	Jeff Weaver
Katie George	Cat McKay	Tara West
Gwen Huggins		

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# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

## Algebra I Awareness Workshops

The **Math Science Partnership Program** recently provided Algebra I Awareness workshops in Baton Rouge and Ruston. Completion of the workshop is one of the requirements for obtaining the Algebra I add-on certification. These two-day professional development experiences are designed to build greater understanding of the instructional activities and assessments in the Algebra I course. Using the *Algebra I Comprehensive Curriculum* as the basis, strategies, methods and problem solving activities needed to provide high quality algebra instruction are explored by teacher participants. With waiting lists for both sessions, a third workshop may be offered later this spring.



*A Four-Sided Meter Stick?*



*After I finish this activity, I get to eat the M&Ms!*

## District-Level Teams Complete Redelivery Training on Mathematics Comprehensive Curriculum for Grades 5 and 8

District-selected teams have just completed a series of nine day professional development workshops on each of the mathematics *Comprehensive Curriculum for Grades 5 and 8*. The development and delivery of these workshops was funded by the **Math Science Partnership Program**. The series consisted of one day of overview training, followed by one day of professional development for each unit in the respective curriculum.

In June, the teams engaged in training on the overview and the first two units of the curriculum. This training was redelivered to teachers in their districts. Training for remaining units was completed in three, two day workshops provided approximately every two months and then redelivered to teachers.

Comments from the participants were overwhelmingly positive. One of things most frequently stated by participants was the desire that every teacher could receive the training provided. That request will be realized this summer as the first CCSS-based *Comprehensive Curriculum* courses are released. The model described above will be used by the Louisiana Department of Education to provide professional development on the new courses.



*Participants in the Grade 8 Comprehensive Curriculum training participate in a Gallery Walk (above). Brian Fontenot and Lyndelle Theriot work to develop a model lesson (below).*



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# UPCOMING STUDENT EVENTS

## Math Tournaments 2011-12

The following math tournaments are listed on the LaMA $\Theta$  website, but are run by the individuals schools not LaMA $\Theta$ . Tournaments are usually open to all high schools (not just Mu Alpha Theta chapters). Some may be open to middle schools. Teachers are to contact the sponsor listed if your school would like to attend. Most tournaments have a registration deadline two weeks before the competition date.

School	Date	Contact
Baton Rouge High	February 04, 2012	<a href="#">Doris Parrino</a>
Lafayette High School	March 03, 2012	<a href="#">Claire Arabie</a>
LSU	March 17, 2012	<a href="#">LSU Math Department</a>

## American Mathematics Competition at McNeese State University

The McNeese Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics is proud to announce that they will be hosting the American Mathematics Competition for a second year. The Level 10 and 12 tests will be administered on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Students who wish to participate must meet the eligibility requirements of the MAA which are:

- Level 10 test: Students must be in 10th grade or below and 17.5 years old or younger.
- Level 12 test: Students must be 19.5 years old or younger.

The deadline for registering is Wednesday, January 25 at 11:59 p.m. Registration will soon be available online at [http://dmcs.mcneese.edu/MathCompetition/amc\\_reg.php](http://dmcs.mcneese.edu/MathCompetition/amc_reg.php).

The exams will take place on the Campus of McNeese State University starting at 4 p.m. The exam will last 75 minutes and the entire event including the awards ceremony, should be over by around 7:00 p.m. Students will take the test individually and their individual scores will be sent to the Mathematics Association of America for the national competition. High scoring students may qualify for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination, which is the next step towards participation in the U.S. Mathematics Olympiad. More information on the national competition can be found at: <http://amc.maa.org/>.

Schools are asked to send 'teams' of up to three students who will have their individual scores pooled to form a 'team score' which will be used for recognition at the local level. Once the examinations have been given, solution sets will be provided to the team coach/teachers to help students learn and prepare for future exams. Homeschooled students may also form 'teams' if they choose.

The contests are written by the national MAA and are given at schools around the country in February. Both tests cover topics in pre-calculus math, including: algebra, geometry, probability, measurement, and problem solving. The level 10 exam emphasizes material from traditional 9th and 10th grade courses in the same topics, for example logarithms are considered advanced algebra and not on the level 10 test, but would be fair game for the level 12 test.

More specifics on the examination and arrangements (i.e., rooms, parking) will be available in late January. For more specific information about the exams themselves, check out the AMC pages at <http://amc.maa.org/>. Contact **Dr. Lenny Ornas**, [gornas@mcneese.edu](mailto:gornas@mcneese.edu), 337.475.5805, or **Dr. Christine Gorton**, [cgorton@mcneese.edu](mailto:cgorton@mcneese.edu), 337.475.5766, for local information.

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# VICE-PRESIDENTS' CIRCLE

## Petals Around the Rose

Thanks to Maryanne Smith, Parliamentarian, for submitting this article in the absence of a Middle School Vice-President.

An activity that is very interesting for middle school students is "*Petals Around the Rose*." It is a brain teaser that was first printed in the September/October 1977 edition of *Personal Computing* magazine. The article documented the introduction of the brain teaser to a group of microcomputer specialists including Bill Gates and Paul Allen. What was most notable about the teaser was that it totally stumped Bill Gates.

The traditional use of this lateral-thinking mind game consists of the rolling of five dice. The **Potentate of the Rose**, a person who knows the secret of the game, announces the numerical "answer" for each roll of all dice. The players or class then attempts to arrive at this answer through inductive reasoning. If no one in the class can give the answer, the Potentate will provide it for them. Then the class will attempt again in the next roll to see if they can determine how the answer was generated.

There are three rules:

1. The name of the game is *Petals Around the Rose*; the name of the game is significant.
2. The answer is always zero or an even number.
3. Anyone who is familiar with the game may give the answer to any roll, but they must NOT disclose the reasoning.

The Potentate is allowed to give ONLY the above three rules, as well as the answer to each roll. It is generally agreed that a person has to be able to come up with six consecutive correct answers to be deemed a Potentate.

Try it with your students to encourage and enhance critical thinking skills. This brain teaser be presented in one class period, but it may extend over time, possibly weeks. I suggest taking a few minutes once a week to keep the students engaged.

For more information and clarification, visit: <http://www.borrett.id.au/computing/petals-bg.htm>



**Vicky Hand** has been an educator since 1977. She has served LATM for the last three years as the Membership Chair. Vicky has worked in Calcasieu Parish in various positions that include teaching middle school and high school math and science and as an instructional coach for Title I high schools and the alternative school. She presently is the supervisor for high school mathematics for the Calcasieu Parish School System. Vicky is a member of the board of Southwest Louisiana Teachers of Mathematics (SWLTM) and is currently the past-president. In 2009, Vicky completed doctoral studies at the University of New Orleans in Educational Leadership. She and her husband of 31 years are the proud parents of two children.



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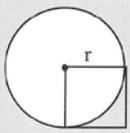


## Every Day Should be a Mathematics Day

Jeffrey Weaver  
President-Elect and former College Vice-President

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics has calendars with a *Problem of the Day* in its journals. Such calendars are excellent instructional tools as the problems represent a variety of topics and learning outcomes. Use of the calendar's problems allows a teacher to present a number of topics as an introduction to new content, review of past lessons, or a spiral review of related concepts and can be used in a variety of ways such as a warm-up activity, a daily homework question, or an assessment review leading to the next test or quiz.

Theoni Pappas has written *The Math-A-Day Calendar* and *The Mathematics Calendar*. She puts a unique twist on the calendars by using the date as the solution to the stated problem. A portion of an example calendar is provided below.

	1 $\log_{2007} 2007 = ?$	2  $\frac{\text{circumference}}{\text{square's perimeter}} = \frac{\pi}{?}$	3  If 4 coins are tossed in the air the probability of getting 2 heads & 2 tails is $?\/8$	4 <table border="1" data-bbox="1105 653 1252 737"> <tr><td>II</td><td>I</td></tr> <tr><td>III</td><td>IV</td></tr> </table> In which quadrant is the center of the circle with equation $x^2 - 2x + y^2 + 2y = 4$	II	I	III	IV
II	I							
III	IV							
7 <b>palindromes</b> If 137828_31 is a palindrome, what number must go into the blank space?	8  If $ AB  = 2/3$ , determine the perimeter of this regular hexagon.	9 One of the terms of an expanded binomial is $78732x^7y^2$ . The binomial is $(3x+y)^?$	10 ???? The average of x and y is 7. The average of a, b, and c is 12. Find the average of x, y, a, b, and c.	11 If $f(x) = 3x + 9$ , then $f^{-1}(42) = ?$				

This type of calendar is beneficial particularly because the student is responsible for determining the algorithm or a method for obtaining the solution. A student who is struggling can benefit by knowing what the answer is and understanding that the process of problem solving is the most critical part.

Another variation of this calendar idea is a Scavenger Hunt Mathematics Calendar. Start with the first date. The problem on the first date has a solution that is another date on the calendar. The student goes to that date, solves that problem to get to the next date, and so on until all the problems are considered. With effective planning, such a calendar can serve as a challenge for an entire class

While the creation of problems for a mathematics calendar is a time-consuming task for the teacher, the construction has added value as a learning outcome when students are given the task of constructing the various problems. Students become responsible for the problems, the process of solving, and the correct solution. Groups of students can accomplish this task quickly and effectively giving students ownership in the process. This can be used as single event or used throughout the year.

Colored or white poster board or foam board and colored squares with adhesive backing, can be used to create a reusable calendar to be displayed in the classroom or in a learning center.

Calendars allow every day to be a mathematics day.

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## Snapshots from 2011 LATM Conference Presentations



Tangipahoa 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers Present Math Trails



LDE Common Core Presentation



Measuring is FUN



A Packed House

## AFFILIATE NEWS

### Acadiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ACTM)

ACTM will meet Thursday, January 26, 2012, in Maximum Doucet at the University of Lafayette at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will focus on Statistic Standards found in the CCSS. Dinner will be served. Contact [Cat McKay](#) at 337-258-2810 for more information.

### Baton Rouge Area Council of Teachers of Mathematics (BRACTM)

BRACTM is excited about its **annual mini-conference!** The theme is *What's Cooking in the Classroom*. This year's conference is a joint venture of BRACTM, the Capital Area Reading Council, and the Zachary Area Reading Council. The mini-conference will be held at the University Lab School at LSU on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Registration is from 7:15-8:15 a.m. and sessions end at 3:30 p.m. We will have two dynamic keynote speakers.

[Eric Milou, Ph.D.](#) is a professor with Rowan University. His session is entitled "The Common Core: A Challenge and an Opportunity." Dr. Milou has worked with NCTM to create training sessions on the common core. He is a dynamic, knowledgeable speaker.

[Annette Breaux](#) is a motivational speaker with practical techniques for the classroom.

For further information, including registration, please e-mail [Shannon Hannaman](#) [shannama@lsu.edu](mailto:shannama@lsu.edu). We hope to see you on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

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## Greater New Orleans Teachers of Mathematics (GNOTM)

The GNOTM Board has cancelled its mini-conference which was scheduled for January 28, 2012. The decision of whether to reschedule will be considered in the near future. Members will be notified of the decision.

GNOTM is now on Facebook. We look forward to being your friend. You can also visit us at our new website, [www.gnotm.org](http://www.gnotm.org).

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## Northeast Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (NELATM)

NELATM will accept nominations from its membership for its Outstanding Mathematics Teacher Award. Nominees must be members of NELATM. See NELATM's webpage at [www.nelatm.org](http://www.nelatm.org) for more info.

We have some exciting news about our 2012 NELATM Mini-Conference to be held March 10, 2012, at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. **Greg Tang**, a best-selling author and popular math educator, coming as our guest speaker/presenter.



Greg Tang

Greg Tang grew up in Ithaca, N.Y. He earned B.A. and M.A. degrees in Economics from Harvard, and later earned an M.A. degree in Math Education from New York University. He is certified as a middle school and high school math teacher. His goal is to "give kids a better understanding of math, from counting all the way through calculus." His first book *The Grapes of Math* was published in 2001 and became a New York Times best seller. Since then, he has written *Math For All Seasons*, *The Best of Times*, *Math Appeal*, *Math-terpieces*, *Math Fables*, *Math Potatoes*, and *Math Fables Too*.

Today, Mr. Tang is working to develop a more intuitive approach to teaching math, one that combines problem-solving and arithmetic and integrates math with language and art. He wrote the *Go Fast Go Far*<sup>®</sup> mental math series, math games *Numskill*<sup>®</sup> and *Numskill Jr*<sup>®</sup>, *Smart Sums*<sup>®</sup> and *Great Times*<sup>®</sup> flash cards and the *Kakooma*<sup>®</sup> puzzle series available online and as an iPhone and iPad app.

Mr. Tang will conduct two different mathematics workshops. Each will be 90 minutes long with document provided for 3 CLUs for those who attend both sessions. Seating capacity is limited for this event; registration forms will be recorded by the order in which registrations with payment are received. Between 300-350 participants can be accommodated. On-site registration may not be available.

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**Pamela Martin** is currently the President-Elect of the Northeast Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics (NELATM) and has represented NELATM on the LATM Executive Council since 2006. Pam is an Instructor of Mathematics at the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM), primarily focusing on both Statistics and Mathematics for Elementary School Teachers. She has developed online classes for these courses as well. Pam also teaches Calculus at River Oaks School in Monroe and works with high school dual enrollment through ULM. She was also the Conference Co-Chair for the 2011 LATM Annual Conference held in Monroe.



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## Northwest Louisiana Mathematics Association (NLMA)

The Northwest Louisiana Mathematics Association's Winter Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. The conference theme is *NLMA 2012: Math Rocks*. The keynote speaker is **Dr. Mary Nash Robinson**, Government and Community Relations Officer for Caddo Parish Public Schools.

For more information e-mail [tevans@caddo.k12.la.us](mailto:tevans@caddo.k12.la.us).

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## Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (LCSM)

LCSM met on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at the Monroe Civic Center on the opening day of the LATM conference. Officers elected are as follows: President – **Sabrina Smith** (Jefferson Parish Public School System); Vice President – **Michelle Blouin-Williams** (Jefferson Parish Public School System); Secretary – **Stacey Magee** (St. Tammany Parish Public School System); Treasurer – **Jean Ware** (Retired, Caddo Parish Public School System); NCTM Representative – **DesLey Plaisance** (Nicholls State University).

**Cat McKay** from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette provided members with information about Math Circles. **Jean May-Brett** from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) reported on various state department initiatives/programs including Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and the Algebra I Add-On Certification workshops.

**Carolyn Sessions**, an LCSM member and LDE Standards and Curriculum Projects Coordinator, was the featured guest speaker. Her presentation was titled "Common Core State Standards and Standards for Mathematical Practices: Their Connection to Rigor."

The National Council of Supervisors of Mathematics (NCSM) will hold its annual conference April 23-24, 2012, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, immediately preceding the annual conference of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

A spring meeting is planned for May, 2012. Members should check upcoming e-mails for information about the meeting including location, time, and agenda.

Any mathematics coordinator, coach, supervisor, or other educators who provide mathematics leadership should consider joining LCSM and make plans to attend the spring meeting. To receive membership information, please send contact information to **Stacey Magee**, Secretary, at [stacey.magee@stpsb.org](mailto:stacey.magee@stpsb.org), or **Sabrina Smith**, President, at [sabrina.smith@jppss.k12.la.us](mailto:sabrina.smith@jppss.k12.la.us).

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## SouthEast Area Teachers of Mathematics (SEATM)

SEATM awarded three \$250 travel grants to members to help with the expense of attending the LATM Conference held in Monroe in October 2011. The Board has decided to continue to award the travel grants in the future. SEATM, under the guidance of **Kay McInnis**, was in charge of registration for the LATM conference. Thanks to all who helped make the conference a success.

March 1, 2011, is the date for the SEATM Spring Math Fair. It will be held at Fontainebleau High School. This year's fair will be a continuation of last year's theme *Understanding the Common Core Standards*. Please check out our website at [www.seatm.org](http://www.seatm.org) to find more information about the Math Fair. SEATM is currently making plans for its Spring Teacher Recognition Dinner which will be held in April.

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## Southwest Louisiana Teachers of Mathematics (SWLTM)

Get ready for SWLTM Math Mini-Conference on February 4, 2012, at Lake Charles Boston Academy from 8-12. Registration begins at 8 a.m. followed by a general meeting at 8:30 a.m.

You will be able to select from several math sessions, some presented by teachers who were awarded grants from SWLTM at 2011 meeting. New grant awardees will be announced in the business meeting at 11 a.m.

Check the SWLTM website (<http://www.faculty.mcneese.edu/swlrm>) for registration forms. Sign up quickly as registration prices increase after January 24th.

Interested in presenting? The deadline for submitting a proposal is January 24, 2012. The form is available on the SWLTM website. Anyone interested in running for a SWLTM office should e-mail **Karen Ray** at [karen.ray@cpsb.org](mailto:karen.ray@cpsb.org).

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## LATM JOURNAL

### Get Involved With the LATM Journal

Submit an Article for the Next Issue NOW!



**LATM JOURNAL**

Did you make a presentation at the LATM Conference in Monroe? Did the audience really like the ideas you shared? Why not write an article describing your presentation and how the information can be used in a mathematics classroom? The next issue of the *LATM Journal* is planned for release in April 2012. If you are interested in submitting an article for this issue, articles will be accepted until February 15, 2012. Submission information can be found at <http://lamath.org/journal/LATMJournalSubmissionInformation.pdf>

The LATM Editorial Board is also looking for guest column writers. Those that have an opinion about a current mathematics education topic and would like to share that opinion with your fellow LATM members are encouraged to submit. For questions or suggestions, the *LATM Journal* contact editor, **Dr. DesLey V. Plaisance** at [desley.plaisance@nicholls.edu](mailto:desley.plaisance@nicholls.edu). The most recent edition and previous issues of the *LATM Journal* can be accessed at <http://lamath.org/journal/index.htm>.



**DesLey Plaisance** has served on the Executive Council for the past four years. She initially served as Community Relations Officer and currently serves as the LATM Journal Coordinator. Plaisance has been a mathematics educator for 30 years. She was a high school mathematics teacher in Iberia and East Baton Rouge Parishes and a mathematics instructor at LSU-BR. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Coordinator of Mathematics Graduate Studies at Nicholls State University. Her teaching focus involves mathematics for pre-service teachers and her research focus involves mathematics anxiety of pre-service teachers. DesLey also serves as NCTM Representative for the Louisiana Council of Supervisors of Mathematics



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# TEACHING MATHEMATICS

## A Brief Look at Mathematics Anxiety

DesLey Viator Plaisance, Ph.D.  
Nicholls State University

Grade-level expectations. Comprehensive Curriculum. Common Core State Standards. All are documents providing some guide for teaching mathematics. All provide teachers with activities and ideas to use in the mathematics classroom. But, no matter what "guide" is given to teachers, there are students who fear mathematics and that fear – known as math anxiety – must be addressed.

Sheila Tobias, author of *Overcoming Math Anxiety*, referred to math anxiety as "the panic, helplessness, paralysis and mental disorganization that arises among some people when they are required to solve a mathematical problem" (Tobias and Weissbrod, 1980, p. 65). Reys, Lindquist, Lambdin, and Smith (2007) (authors of a math methods textbook) depict math anxiety as a gorge that separates the "concrete" from the "abstract." That gorge is described as having challenging mathematics classroom behaviors including not liking math, not having confidence, lacking self-motivation, and having poor test-taking skills.

There are some suggested teaching techniques that assist students in reducing their fear of mathematics and thereby decreasing their level of mathematics anxiety. If mathematics teachers are to take students on a successful journey from the "concrete" to the "abstract," then teachers must provide appropriate activities and adequate time for students to cross that gorge. Conceptual understanding should be encouraged along with memorizing needed facts in that students "attempting to memorize mathematics without understanding are likely to fall into this 'anxiety gorge'" (Reys et al., 2007, pl. 18). Appropriate activities should include modeling representation which allows students to learn methods for representing mathematical ideas in basic ways such as sketches and word equations prior to introduction of symbolic representation. Teachers should guide their students over the gorge by helping them make the connections between the concrete and the abstract through promoting conceptual understanding while increasing successful learning and decreasing mathematics anxiety.

The National Council of Mathematics (NCTM) (1995a) suggests various teaching strategies to decrease and prevent students' mathematics anxiety. Most of these strategies are used by teachers in that they are considered "best teaching practices." The recommended strategies are as follows:

1. Accommodate different styles of learning;
2. Create a variety of testing environments;
3. Design positive experiences;
4. Emphasize that mathematical ability is not a measure of self-worth;
5. Emphasize that everyone makes mistakes in mathematics;
6. Make mathematics relevant to life;
7. Allow students input into their own evaluations;
8. Allow for different social approaches to learning mathematics;
9. Encourage original thinking instead of rote memorization;
10. Characterize mathematics as a human endeavor.

Hembree (1990) indicated that when teaching strategies such as these are implemented in the classroom, the level of student mathematics anxiety is usually reduced.

In conclusion, teachers should always be alert to the needs of their students and try to meet as many of these needs as possible. If students show any signs of having math anxiety, teachers should remember the recommended teaching strategies. It is believed that teachers are the

“root” of student math anxiety, but research does indicate that mathematics anxiety is decreased by a myriad of teacher-related behaviors including the teaching strategies recommended by NCTM.

#### REFERENCES

Hembree, R. (1990). The nature, effects, and relief of mathematics anxiety. *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education*. 21, 33-36.

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. (1995a). *Mathematics anxiety*. [Supplemental Brochure]. Reston, VA: Author.

Tobias, S., & Weissbrod, C. (1980). Anxiety and mathematics: an update. *Harvard Educational Review*, 50(1), 63-70.

## NCTM Update

### Registration Is Open for the Philadelphia Annual Meeting



Registration is open for NCTM's Annual Meeting—the nation's largest math education event! Preregister today to receive their lowest early-bird preregistration rates, and save 36% or more. Professional development has never been more fun, exciting, or worthwhile. With international experts, nearly 700 presentations to choose from, and the latest resources, this is one conference you can't afford to miss! Go to [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org).

### Illuminations Brand Champions

*Illuminations* is excited to announce a new program designed to bring *Illuminations* to you and your school. *Illuminations* has tapped five outstanding teachers throughout the country to act as brand champions. These brand champions are available to come to your school and give presentations on a variety of *Illuminations* lessons, activities and games. Best of all, the presentation can be tailored to fit your needs! If you're interested in having an *Illuminations* brand champion come to your school, e-mail marketing coordinator [Christa Koskosky](mailto:Christa_Koskosky@nctm.org) at [ckoskosky@nctm.org](mailto:ckoskosky@nctm.org).

### Seeking Manuscripts for *Mathematics Teacher* 2013 Focus Issue

The editorial panel of *Mathematics Teacher* is looking for your manuscript for its 2013 Focus Issue, "Beginning Algebra: Teaching Key Concepts." Whether taught within a first-year algebra or an integrated course, algebraic concepts form a core of mathematical knowledge that students need for future success. If you would like to discuss topics before sending a manuscript, contact Albert Goetz, [agoetz@nctm.org](mailto:agoetz@nctm.org). Please submit manuscripts at [mt.msubmit.net](http://mt.msubmit.net) by May 1, 2012. Guidelines for the preparation of manuscripts can be obtained at [www.nctm.org/publications/content.aspx?id=22602](http://www.nctm.org/publications/content.aspx?id=22602).



**Ellen Marino** first became a member of the LATM Executive Council in 2007 as the representative for SEATM, where she currently serves as Treasurer. Ellen is a National Board Certified Teacher in Early Adolescence Mathematics and recently achieved recertification. In 1996, she received the Louisiana Elementary Mathematics Award for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Currently, she is a sixth grade teacher of the gifted in St. Tammany Parish. Ellen has presented workshops at the local, state and national level. She and her husband, Johnny, are the proud grandparents of two grandsons.



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# LA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION UPDATE

Mandy Boudwin  
LDE Representative

## Common Core State Standards Implementation Update

The Louisiana Department of Education has created a communication plan to keep educators informed of its professional development events related to its Common Core State Standards (CCSS) implementation. As part of the communication plan, each district and charter school was asked to designate a CCSS Specialist. The CCSS Specialist is responsible for ensuring that information regarding Common Core State Standards is passed on to the school level and that any professional development provided by the Department is redelivered to the teachers in their districts. By the end of January 2012, a CCSS Implementation Plan presentation should be redelivered to teachers in all schools. By the end of March 2012, all mathematics teachers are to receive training on the Grade-Level Content Comparison Reports. (See page 19 of September 2011 issue of *The Number Line* at [www.lamath.org](http://www.lamath.org).)

LDOE will offer a variety of professional development opportunities in the upcoming months. These professional development events will be attended by a district chosen team and then redelivered by those teams to teachers in the district. More information about these events and the redelivery of the material should be forthcoming from the CCSS Specialist for your district or charter school.

Upcoming Professional Development Timeline:

January/February – Five regional workshops on Math Practices

March/April – Five regional workshops on Kindergarten and Grade 1 Standards

June/July – One day Summer Institutes for school level teams

## Textbook Adoption for K-2 Math

In an effort to assist districts with the implementation of CCSS, the LDOE has changed the schedule for Mathematics and English Textbook Adoption. For 2012-2013, the State Textbook Adoption Cycle will include Mathematics for Grades K-2 and ELA for Grades K-5. The remaining grades/courses will be adopted during the 2013-2014 cycle.

Important Dates for Textbook Adoption:

State Review Committee Orientation Sessions	April 16-17, 2012
Textbooks on Public Display (90 days)	June 13 – September 10, 2012
State Committee Deliberation Meetings	October 1-5, 2012
State Textbook Caravan	January 2013
Local Textbook Adoption Activities	January – March 2013

## Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum Update

*Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum* writers began their work to write the new CCSS-based *Comprehensive Curriculum* for Grades K-1 and the *Transitional Comprehensive Curriculum* for grades 2 and higher in September. The *Transitional Curriculum* for each grade is based on the Grade-Level Content Comparisons reports. The plan is to have all curricula ready for distribution to districts by June 2012.

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# TEACHER'S TECHNOLOGY CORNER

[www.internet4classrooms.com/](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/)

In February, 1997, Susan Brooks and Bill Byles began a collaborative effort to extend assistance to fellow teachers. In November of 2000 that project expanded to a web presence known as Internet 4 Classrooms ("i4c"), a free web portal designed to assist anyone who wants to find high-quality, free Internet resources to use in classroom instruction, developing project ideas, reinforcing specific subject matter areas both in the class and at home and even for online technology tutorials. The portal is used by teachers, parents and students of all ages on six of the seven continents (there are not many classrooms in Antarctica) and is available to anyone with an Internet connection. There is NO subscription fee. Below are some the categories of information. Each has multiple links based on grade and subject.



## Grade Level Help for PreK thru 8th Grade

Standards based links and grade level "Skillbuilders" to help students practice, either at home or in the classroom, what they have been taught.



## Links for PreK-12

Several large collections of links for PreK-12 teachers, students and parents.



## On-Line Practice Modules

Step-by-step technology tutorials for learning applications commonly used in K-12 classrooms.



## Assessment Assistance

Help your students prepare for annual assessments, standardized tests, and end of course exams.



## Daily Dose of the Web

Web sites which provide new content on a daily or weekly basis.



**Penny Gennuso** has served on the LATM Executive Council for the past 2 year as the Vice-President of High School. She has worked in Lafayette Parish School System for 18 years as a classroom teacher and middle and high school math Lead Teacher and is now Assistant Principal of David Thibodaux Career and Technical High School and STEM Academy. As a math Lead Teacher, Penny served as the Project Director of the Lafayette and Iberia parish Math and Science Partnership for four years. She is married with five children and four grandchildren. In addition, she serves as a member of ACTM and the Math Teacher's Circle sponsored through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.



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## How to Become an LATM Member or Renew Your Membership

Not a member? Need to renew your membership? Visit <http://lamath.org/membership/>. Submit the information requested, print the receipt, and mail the receipt and \$15 payment to the address specified on the receipt.

### LATM EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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