

MATHEMATICS EDUCATION — AND — LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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Thomas Mgonja Awarded MLK Fellowship

Thomas Mgonja, a PhD student in the Mathematics Education and Leadership concentration in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership at Utah State University, was awarded the prestigious Martin Luther King Fellowship for the 2018-19 academic year. This award is given to a student with an outstanding GPA, high GRE scores, and contributions to equity and diversity. Thomas serves as a leader and mentor for a variety of initiatives that contribute to the educational community at Utah State University and Utah Valley University (UVU). Thomas is the advisor for the Black Student Union and the leading founder of the African American Mentorship Program which developed into the African American Initiative at UVU.

Thomas has taken students to important events, such as the Black Solidarity Summit at the University of Montana, where students had the opportunity to learn about issues of racial discrimination, political disenfranchisement, and vital issues that impact black students. He has recently presented at the Association of American Colleges and Universities Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Democracy Conference in San Diego.

Thomas received the Faculty Champion of Inclusion Award because of his tireless efforts to create and advise the Black Student Union (BSU). He recruited over 100 African American students on UVU's campus to join this organization and to participate in leadership activities. This provided a safe space for students to address important issues of social inequities even in law enforcement. As the Advisor of the BSU, Thomas contributed in the BSU High School Conference, the MLK Commemoration Week, Diversity Dialogue Events, Expect the Great Leadership Convention and Job Fair, NAACP Banquet, and Black History Month activities. Thomas is currently employed as an Associate Professor in the Developmental Mathematics Program at UVU. The MLK Fellowship is an academic fellowship provided by the School of Graduate Studies at Utah State University that covers his tuition for a year and includes a \$7,000 award to support his academic studies at USU.



USU Welcomes New Math Educator: Dr. Diana Moss

In 2018, Dr. Diana Moss joined the Mathematics Education and Leadership faculty as an Assistant Professor in Elementary Mathematics Education in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership. Dr. Moss is part of the Utah State University (USU) Regional Campus system and is based in Tooele. She received a M.S. in Applied Mathematics and B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Nevada, Reno. After teaching middle school mathematics for

two years, she earned her PhD from the University of Nevada, Reno. Prior to coming to USU, Dr. Moss was a faculty member at Appalachian State University in North Carolina for four years. Her research

focuses on understanding how children, as well as pre-service teachers and in-service teachers, learn and make sense of mathematics. She is particularly interested in investigating middle grades students' changing conceptions of variables in early formal algebra and the development of teachers' instructional strategies for teaching and learning. Dr. Moss' favorite activity is spending time with her family. She enjoys snowboarding, snorkeling, and traveling.



USU Provides Math Professional Development with National Impact

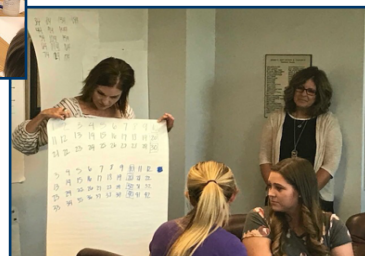
During August 2018, over 48 teachers from Logan City Schools, Cache County School District, and Edith Bowen Laboratory School participated in professional development at Utah State University. Teachers learned about number sense and instructional strategies for improving their students' number sense. Dr. Jessica Shumway organized the professional development as part of a training she led for professional development consultants learning about *Number Sense Routines*, a book published by Shumway. Eight consultants came to USU to learn the curriculum for year-long embedded professional development to be implemented in schools across the U.S. Research indicates that professional development is more impactful when it is ongoing and embedded in teachers' daily work. Shumway developed the number sense professional development curriculum as an option for schools to provide year-long, coherent, and embedded-in-practice learning opportunities for teachers.

The goal of the professional development curriculum is to improve instructional strategies for supporting students' development of number sense. Consultants included Jalyn Kelley (M.Ed '18, USU), instructional coach at Bridger Elementary, and

Barbara Child (EME '12, USU), former Director of Elementary Mathematics in Logan City Schools and current USU TIME Clinic tutor. Consultants from out-of-state included Gwenanne Salkind (Virginia), Mimi Granados (Virginia), Kaneka Turner (North Carolina), Meredith Stanley (North Carolina), Marta Garcia (North Carolina), and Julie Everett (Nebraska).



Barbara Child and Meredith Stanley lead teachers in "math rehearsals."



Julie Everett and Marta Garcia lead teachers in looking for patterns in counting sequences.

Math Education Graduate Students Selected for Funding Awards

The purpose of the Graduate Enhancement Award is to support outstanding graduate students at USU who have consistently shown a track record of excellence. The awards are granted to students that show a history of using knowledge gained through educational opportunities to contribute to the Utah State University campus, to local and national communities, and to their professional field to foster lasting change. Twenty recipients are selected each year and awarded \$4,000 each. From 227 applicants for the 2019-2020 awards competition, 3 of the 20 awards went to PhD students in the Mathematics Education and Leadership concentration in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership: Angie Frabasilio, Kristy Litster, and Jet Warr.

Angie Frabasilio is a 7th-grade teacher at Sunrise Ridge Intermediate School in St. George, Utah. Angie's application stood out because it described how she works with her STEAM class to engineer solutions to community problems. She and her students worked with USU Assistive Technology to create furniture for handicapped children and designed emergency shelters for the homeless population of St. George.

Kristy Litster is a fulltime Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant for Utah State University where she teaches undergraduate and master's level courses in mathematics education. Kristy's application showcased how she has contributed to teacher professional development at a local elementary school,

pre-service teacher development courses at Utah State University, and the field of mathematics education research through service as an officer in the American Education Research Association.

Jet Warr is the Secondary Mathematics Specialist for the Iron County School District in Southern Utah. Jet's application highlighted her love of learning and her efforts to mentor her fellow teachers as they work to provide quality mathematics instruction for all students. Jet seeks opportunities to bring the things she learns in her doctoral coursework to her district work for the benefit of colleagues and students.



Left to Right: Angie Frabasilio, Kristy Litster, and Jet Warr

Moyer-Packenham Named USU's 2018 Outstanding Graduate Mentor of the Year

At the 2018 Research Awards Gala, Dr. Patricia Moyer-Packenham, a professor of mathematics education in the School of TEAL in the College of Education and Human Services, was named Utah State University's Outstanding Graduate Mentor of the Year. This award recognizes excellence in mentoring graduate students. Over her 22 years in higher education, Moyer-Packenham has chaired or served as a committee member for 27 students who completed PhDs, and many are now university faculty at institutions of higher education (IHEs). She uses purposeful strategies when mentoring students, ensuring that students have a variety of experiences in teaching university courses, conducting empirical research, writing and publishing manuscripts, engaging in grant writing, and presenting at professional conferences. In each activity, she provides practical experience and advice that helps students develop academic and professional skills and achieve their personal goals.

One of Moyer-Packenham's most evident characteristics is high expectations for her graduate students' success. Her students have won international and university dissertation awards, graduate student teacher and researcher awards, the MLK fellowship, and the Presidential Doctoral Research Fellowship. Moyer-Packenham often forms lifelong relationships with her former students, continuing to guide them on how to navigate university expectations at their respective IHEs. One of her former students, Dr. Jennifer Suh, now a Professor at George Mason University, wrote the following about Moyer-Packenham in her letter of support: *One of the most outstanding qualities that she has is as a strength-finder. She has the ability to see the potential in all of her students and build up their skills so that they become competent and confident as a mathematics leader. In fact, one of the ways she is able to develop her mentees is by providing lots of opportunities ...that prepare them for*

the next challenge. That is exactly what she did with me. She would continue to offer me opportunities to develop and hone my skills as a researcher and as an educator by collaborating on research, presentations, and teaching. Each time, Dr. Moyer would believe in my strength, provide all the support necessary and then raise the bar on the next challenge.



Congratulations Patricia!

USU Admits 5th Doctoral Cohort in Mathematics Education



Left to right: Joseph Kozlowski, Allison Roxburgh, Carrie Bala, and KimberLeigh Hadfield

Since the inception of the Mathematics Education PhD concentration at Utah State University (USU) in 2010, the program has admitted many exceptional students. The 2018 Math Education cohort continues this tradition with 10 outstanding leaders in mathematics education beginning their PhD studies in the fall semester 2018. Here we meet the new cohort.

Joseph Kozlowski was a third-grade teacher at Tongue River Elementary School in Ranchester, Wyoming. **Allison Roxburgh** was an elementary classroom teacher at Stansbury Park Elementary (4th Grade) and Wilson Elementary (3rd Grade). Joseph and Allison are employed as Graduate Research and Teaching Assistants at Utah State University where they teach undergraduate and master's-level mathematics education courses. Allison is the recipient of the Presidential Doctoral Research Fellowship. **Carrie Bala** has been a 9th through 12th grade high school mathematics teacher for 20 years, both in Chicago, Illinois and in Heber City, Utah. **KimberLeigh Hadfield** is currently a lecturer in the Department of Mathematics

and Statistics at Utah State University where she was recently recognized as one of *The Utah Statesman's Top 10 Most Influential Faculty*. **Rick Franklin** is a former elementary teacher who now works at Salt Lake Community College managing a Federal grant and the development/analysis of competency-based education systems. **Danielle Divis** has taught Mathematics 8, Algebra, and Pre-calculus at Paradigm High School and Ascent Academies of Utah. **Bonnie Freedman** has a Level 4 math endorsement. **Lise Welch** works for Davis School District teaching 6th grade math and science at Odyssey Elementary. Additionally, Lise is a board member of the Utah Council of Teachers of Mathematics (UCTM). **Amy Kinder** is an Instructional Leader in Canyons District at Union Middle School and is currently serving as the President of the UCTM. **Kent Hoffman** has taught at the secondary level as a math teacher at West Wendover High School in Nevada. He has over 15 years of experience in education as both a teacher and an administrator. Welcome new students!



Left to right: Rick Franklin, Danielle Divis, Bonnie Freedman, Lise Welch, and Amy Kinder (not pictured: Kent Hoffman)



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About Us

The Mathematics Education and Leadership Programs in the School of Teacher Education and Leadership in the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services provide students with a variety of advanced study options in mathematics education at the graduate level. Students can select the Mathematics Education and Leadership Emphasis in the PhD program, the Elementary Mathematics Endorsement emphasis in the Master of Education Degree in Elementary Education, professional development credit in the online Elementary Mathematics Teachers Academy, or the Secondary Mathematics Emphasis in the Master of Education Degree in Secondary Education. The Mathematics Education and Leadership Programs at Utah State University provide students with opportunities to focus on enhancing their mathematics education expertise and develop leadership skills for positions at all levels of mathematics teaching, learning, supervision, and research. Contact the director today to begin your graduate work in Mathematics Education and Leadership at Utah State University!

Patricia Moyer-Packenham, PhD

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