



**For Immediate Release**

**The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) Awards 2018 *Rosenthal Prize*  
For Innovation in Math Teaching to Elizabeth Masslich  
of Cedarburg High School, Cedarburg, WI**

***Since 2012, MoMath has presented \$224,000 to 24 teachers in seven states to promote innovative hands-on math teaching in upper elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms***

**Prizes will be presented on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. at MoMath**

**New York, NY (January 28, 2019):** The [National Museum of Mathematics](http://www.momath.org) (MoMath) is proud to present the 2018 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching* to Elizabeth Masslich, a high school teacher at Cedarburg High School in Cedarburg, WI. Masslich's winning lesson, "Geometry Project: DARTBOARD" was chosen as the most innovative, unique, and interesting project for students.

The winning lesson plan teaches geometric probability using shapes on a dartboard. Students examine a geometric dartboard and determine the area taken up by each shape as a percentage of the total area, which corresponds to the probability of a dart landing in that shape. The annual *Rosenthal Prize*, which includes a cash award of \$25,000, will be presented on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. at MoMath.

MoMath's *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching* was established to recognize and promote creative and engaging hands-on math teaching. Since 2012, MoMath has made awards through the *Rosenthal Prize* program to 24 teachers around the country, totaling \$224,000 in cash awards. Each year, the winning classroom instructional activities are shared via MoMath's website with teachers across the country. Over the years, *Rosenthal Prize* winners have developed a wide range of classroom lessons, including math probability activities, exploration of the math of fashion design, and an investigation of projections using light and shadows.

The award is named for Saul Rosenthal, President of investment firm Oxford Lane Capital Corp. and a long-time supporter of math education.

"As both a student and occasional guest teacher, I have always enjoyed that 'aha' moment that comes from a new understanding of a difficult concept or seeing something in a new way," commented Saul Rosenthal. "I was delighted to work with the founders of MoMath to create this prize and recognize truly innovative and inspiring teachers. It is terrific to see so many fantastic teachers from around the country submitting their lesson plans – with so many to choose from, it is very difficult to select a winner!"

"MoMath is thrilled to present Elizabeth Masslich with the *Rosenthal Prize* for her dedication to

mathematics and her creative and innovative math lesson," said Cindy Lawrence, Executive Director of MoMath. "Through this competition, we have been able to build a strong database of lessons provided by math teachers across the country and have empowered a total of 24 teachers to continue to provide hands-on math experiences that make learning fun and compelling for students."

This year, a second-place prize and \$5,000 cash award was given to "Squareland: Into How Many Squares Can We Cut a Square?" created by Hector Rosario, a high school teacher from South Gwinnett High School in Snellville, GA. In this activity, students generate and analyze patterns by cutting squares into smaller squares while making conjectures and trying to prove their claims – and in the process, thinking just like a mathematician.

Additionally, two teachers received Awards of Merit with \$1,000 cash awards each. Dwayne Golden, a middle school teacher from Snelson-Golden Middle School in Hinesville, GA, was recognized for her lesson, "Statistics Tri-Mathlon." In Ms. Golden's hands-on lesson, students perform three forms of exercise in order to collect and analyze data. Students learn to recognize statistical questions, account for variability in data, and display data in a variety of formats. Kristen Rudd, a high school teacher from Eastern Christian High School in Oakland, NJ was recognized for her lesson, "Searching for Intersections: Solving Linear Equations by Graphing." In Ms. Rudd's lesson, students use graphing techniques to reveal a secret location on a map where a prize has been hidden.

Saul Rosenthal will present prizes to the winners in a ceremony at MoMath on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00 p.m. at MoMath.

Applications for the 2019 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation in Math Teaching* are now being accepted. For more information on applying, visit [rosenthal.momath.org](http://rosenthal.momath.org).

### **About the National Museum of Mathematics**

The National Museum of Mathematics (MoMath) strives to enhance public understanding and perception of mathematics in daily life. Currently celebrating its sixth anniversary, MoMath has reached more about 2 million New Yorkers and visitors from around the world.

The only math museum in North America, MoMath fills a critical demand around the country and worldwide for hands-on math programming, offering a space where the math-challenged, as well as math enthusiasts of all backgrounds and levels of understanding can enjoy the infinite and beautiful world of mathematics through more than 37 unique, state-of-the-art, interactive exhibits.

In addition to MoMath's home in New York City, Museum exhibitions and content are currently featured in Singapore, Brazil, Germany, Russia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK.

MoMath received the 2016 Communications Award for Public Outreach from the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics. The Museum was awarded the bronze 2013 MUSE Award for Education and Outreach by the American Alliance of Museums. MoMath has been recognized as the Most Fascinating Museum in New York State by the TripAdvisor vacation site and hailed as the "Best Museum for Kids" by New York Magazine.

MoMath, located at 11 East 26<sup>th</sup> Street on the north side of popular Madison Square Park in Manhattan, is open seven days a week, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. For more information, visit [momath.org](http://momath.org).

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