

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Museum of Mathematics, the Premiere Math Museum in North America, Announces 10th Anniversary Winners of the 2022 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching*

With math scores lagging in the United States, MoMath's free public archive with dozens of innovative Rosenthal prize-winning lesson plans is critical resource for teachers

Since 2012, MoMath has awarded \$374,000 to math educators worldwide, and since the 2020 pandemic, it has hosted more than 5,300 virtual events to promote engaging math learning

New York, NY (January 11 2023)—The <u>National Museum of Mathematics</u> (MoMath), the premiere Math Museum in North America, announced the winners of the 2022 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching*, an annual award that recognizes and promotes the best hands-on math lessons in upper elementary and middle school classrooms.

Each educator is awarded a monetary prize, and is featured in MoMath's <u>free online</u> <u>archive</u> of *Rosenthal Prize*-winning instructional activities dating back 10 years. This educational archive provides teachers with a free library of outstanding, wide-ranging, interactive math lesson plans that can help bolster classroom creativity and student engagement, in particular during the ongoing pandemic. In addition, the new Rosenthal Prize Institute brings educators to MoMath each summer to learn about the prize-winning lessons and disseminate them in their communities.

The Rosenthal math archive is especially useful because the United States has seen drastic decreases in math scores in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The 2022 Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching winners are:

- First place: Nancy Seeds, Greenwich, CT; Math Curriculum Director Grades 6-8 at The Mead School
- Second place: Dan Finkel, Seattle, WA; founder of Math for Love
- Third place: Steve Stein, Brooklyn, NY; math teacher at Brooklyn Technical High School
- Honorable mention: Shefali Nanavati, Oakland, CA; sixth and seventh-grade math teacher at Redwood Day

"Each year, MoMath's *Rosenthal Prize* competition recognizes outstanding math lessons from around the world. With the recent decline in math scores in secondary education, it is more important than ever to reward those who create innovative and inspirational math activities and lessons and to continue to build a free archive of engaging curriculum that can be used by teachers around the world," said Cindy Lawrence, Executive Director and CEO of MoMath. "The compelling, creative Rosenthal lesson plans are appropriate for middle school learners and are made available for free thanks to the generous support of sponsor Saul Rosenthal."

MoMath's virtual Rosenthal archive of extraordinary math lessons contain a wide range of classroom topics, such as math probability activities, exploration of the math of fashion design, and an investigation of projections using light and shadows, contributed by educators from across North America including New Jersey, Massachusetts, Georgia, California, Wisconsin, Montana, and Saskatchewan, Canada. Additionally, MoMath has created an archive of lessons that are easily executable at home for parents interested in creative ways to complement their children's math learning at home.

This year's first place winner, Nancy Seeds, hails from Greenwich, CT. Her winning lesson, "Divisibility UNO[®]," teaches students to be confident problem-solvers by exploiting the relationship between number patterns and divisibility. The game involves students using a five-card hand of UNO[®] cards to create a valid large number. Each game round requires students to use higher-order thinking, activating both analytic and creative processes.

Dan Finkel, who currently lives and works in Seattle, WA, the founder of math game and curriculum company *Math for Love,* was awarded second place for his lesson, "The Billiard Ball Problem." His lesson explores the geometry of reflections by teaching students to observe the patterns a ball makes when it is shot diagonally from a corner of a rectangular table to predict what corner the ball will end up in.

Third place winner Steve Stein of Brooklyn, NY, was recognized for his lesson "Transformation Sumo: A Geometry Game," which was inspired by the connection between strategic card games and mathematical functions called transformations. The two-player game requires students to think strategically about how to play a combination of cards that would remove a chip from a gameboard. The lesson teaches students how to perform transformations and also introduces ideas related to group theory.

Shefali Nanavati of Oakland, CA, received an honorable mention for her lesson, "Journey to Trilandia: Exploring Base-3 Number System." This interactive lesson has students visualize a far-away land called Trilandia that has a Base-3 number system. Each "visitor" to Trilandia is given three different colored coins that represent place value. Students roll a die to determine a trade, which they make by going to the "bank" to trade coins. The game can be used to teach different concepts such as number systems, exponents, place value and algebraic reasoning.

Since it was established in 2012, MoMath's *Rosenthal Prize* has given cash awards to 31 individuals, totaling \$374,000. The award is named for Saul Rosenthal, President of

Oxford Funds, LLC, Trustee of the National Museum of Mathematics, and a longtime supporter of math education.

"As we come out of COVID and see the learning gap, I am thrilled that the Museum continues to recognize the most exceptional educators from around the world who are helping students see math in a new way," said Saul Rosenthal. "These curriculums and lessons can be used by educators and parents alike to bring math to live for the next generation."

For more information about submitting applications for the 2023 *Rosenthal Prize for Innovation and Inspiration in Math Teaching* and to review the full archive of past winners' lessons plans, visit <u>rosenthal.momath.org</u>.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MATHEMATICS

MoMath, the premiere math museum in North America, is located at 11 East 26th Street on the northside of Madison Square Park in Manhattan. When mandated by New York City to close in March 2020 because of the Covid-19 crisis, MoMath transformed itself into a virtual Museum with a global footprint. During the pandemic, MoMath has provided more than 1,500 online programs reaching more than 60,000 participants from all 50 U.S. States and Territories, as well as more than 100 countries, including Australia, Vietnam, Guatemala, Egypt, Argentina, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sweden, Chad, Zambia, and France. With its newfound global audience, MoMath is continuing to devote all its capacity and expertise to providing high quality, interactive, and responsive online education. For more information, visit <u>momath.org</u>

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