APRIL
INTERSECTION POINTS

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COUNCIL ON MATHEMATICS LEARNING

RCML seeks to stimulate, generate, coordinate, and disseminate research efforts designed to understand and/or influence factors that affect mathematics learning.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RCML PRESIDENT

By Eddy Colleen

I am honored to be your president for Research Council on Mathematics Learning for the next two years. I have the privilege to build on the leadership of those who have come before me.

I want to recognize the struggles and hardships many of you are facing in this nation, your state, your university, and your work. "Everybody's got something" as Robin Roberts of Good Morning America embraces her mom's saying and so do I (Roberts & Chambers, 2014, p. 2). This quote applies to each of us.

I believe this is the time to come together as an RCML community. Find your place to serve and know when you complete the conference survey your voice counts. Another fitting quote comes to mind by Teddy Roosevelt (1910),

> It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the deer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs; who comes up short again and again…who spends himself for a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

A MESSAGE FROM THE RCML PRESIDENT (CONT.)

I leave you with my mantra. I dare you to hope. I dare you to dream. I double dare you to take action. Be the person in the arena. Some areas to be involved include (1) to nominate yourself for RCML leadership and (2) to become a reviewer for Investigations in Mathematics Learning.
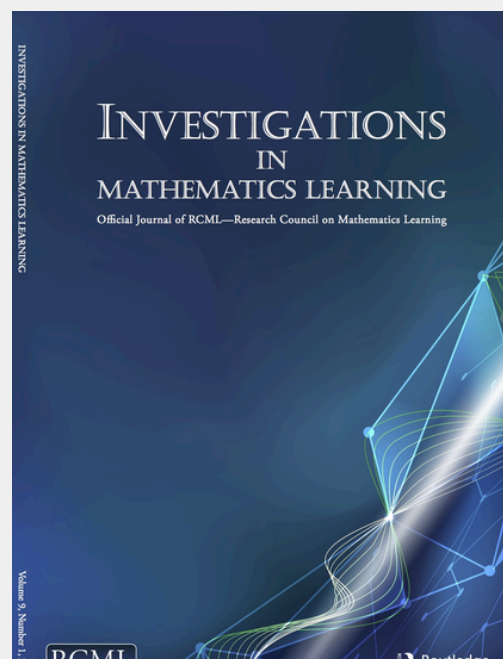
References

Roberts, R. & Chambers, V. (2014). Everybody's got something: A memoir. Grand Central Publishing.
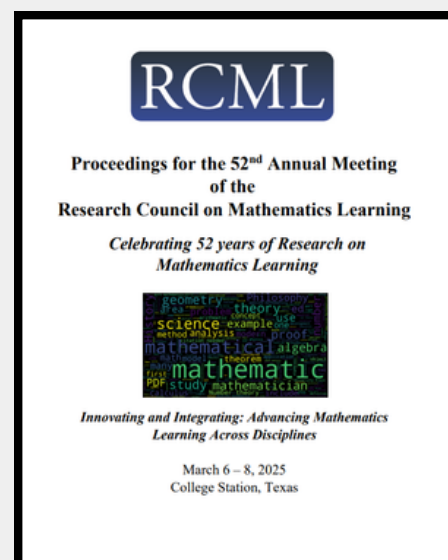
Roosevelt, T. (1910). Citizenship in a Republic: Address at the Sorbonne, Paris. In L. Auchincloss (Ed.) Theodore Roosevelt: Letters and speeches (pp. 781-782).

CALL FOR IML 2027 SPECIAL ISSUE PROPOSALS

The Editorial Team of Investigations in Mathematics Learning (IML) is seeking proposals for a special issue. The editorial team intends to choose one submission as a special issue, which would be forthcoming in 2027, as issue #1. Proposals must be no longer than four single-spaced pages in length, excluding references and list of reviewers. The proposal due date is Monday, May 19, 2025, submitted to Megan Che, IML Editor, sche@clemson.edu, with IML special issue in the subject line. A decision will be communicated by June 6, 2025.

RCML 2025 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE NOW AT THE WEBSITE

VOLUME 50, ISSUE 2 / APRIL 2025

REFLECTING, CONNECTING, AND LOOKING AHEAD:
A COMPREHENSIVE RECAP OF THE 52ND ANNUAL RCML CONFERENCE
AND INVITATION TO RCML 2026 IN LAS VEGAS

The 52nd Annual Conference of the Research Council on Mathematics Learning (RCML) took place from March 6 to 8, 2025, in College Station, Texas. This year's event, hosted at the Hilton College Station & Conference Center, was a dynamic gathering of innovation, scholarship, and community. Centered around the theme "Innovating and Integrating: Advancing Mathematics Learning Across Disciplines," the conference facilitated engaging discussions on the pivotal role of mathematics in education across diverse fields. With over 215 attendees from more than 40 institutions nationwide, RCML 2025 underscored the significance of inclusive, interdisciplinary, and actionable research in mathematics education.

The conference featured a range of offerings, including engaging keynotes, insightful research presentations, dynamic poster sessions, and informal networking opportunities. There was something for everyone, from seasoned scholars to first-time graduate student presenters. This newsletter explores the highlights of the conference, key sessions, and participant engagement, and extends a special invitation to next year's 53rd Annual RCML Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Setting the Stage: The Conference Theme

This year's conference theme—"Innovating and Integrating"—was more than a tagline; it was a call to action. As educational institutions increasingly embrace interdisciplinary models, RCML 2025 encouraged participants to break down traditional silos and explore how mathematics learning can be enhanced through integration with literacy, science, technology, and culturally responsive frameworks. Presenters addressed a diverse range of topics, including early childhood numeracy, digital instructional tools, equitable access, and the sociocultural aspects of mathematics learning
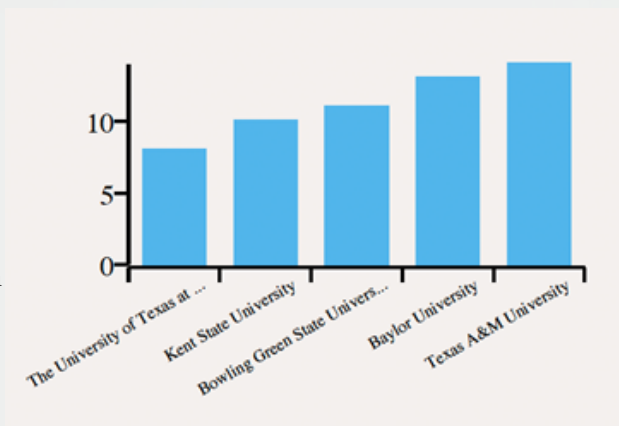

This thematic foundation influenced every aspect of the event, including keynote lectures, breakout sessions, and casual conversations in hallways and breakout rooms. Attendees embraced the challenge to innovate and integrate, utilizing both quantitative studies and practitioner-based reflections to effectively connect research and practice in support of students in diverse learning contexts.

REFLECTING, CONNECTING, AND LOOKING AHEAD (CONT.)

RCML 2025 by the Numbers: A Data Snapshot

Thanks to Whova, the official conference app, we gained a comprehensive view of participation, interaction, and overall engagement during RCML 2025. The conference featured over 100 sessions, including presentations, workshops, panels, and poster displays. A vibrant community of 215 registered attendees brought diverse insights from institutions across the United States. The most represented universities included Texas A&M University with 14 participants, Baylor University with 13, Bowling Green State University with 11, Kent State University with 10, and The University of Texas at Austin with 8.

These data reflect not just statistics but the dynamic community that RCML fosters. The diverse attendance contributed to an engaging, multidisciplinary environment where ideas flowed, connections were made, and meaningful collaborations emerged. RCML 2025 was not a passive, sit-and-listen event; it was a hub of energy, community-building, and knowledge-sharing that resonated throughout every session and informal gathering.

Signature Sessions That Shaped the Conversation

The Wilson Memorial Lecture

Delivered by Dr. Guni Sharon, the Wilson Memorial Lecture titled "Optimizing Intelligence: Bridging AI and Real-World Decision-Making with Mathematical Tools" was a standout moment of the conference. Dr. Sharon, a leading scholar in Computer Science and AI-integrated pedagogy, challenged educators and researchers alike to rethink what it means to be "intelligent" in a world shaped by algorithms. His lecture explored how tools from machine learning, data science, and computational thinking can deepen critical thinking. Dr. Sharon also raised essential ethical considerations—how do we ensure that AI enhances, rather than hinders, our commitment to just and inclusive education?

The Founders Lecture

This year's Founders Lecture was presented by Mary Swarthout, whose address, "The Reading Connection: Now, Then, and What's Next?" explored the deeply interwoven relationship between literacy and numeracy. Dr. Swarthout walked attendees through decades of interdisciplinary research while spotlighting new studies on how reading strategies can support mathematical reasoning and problem-solving.
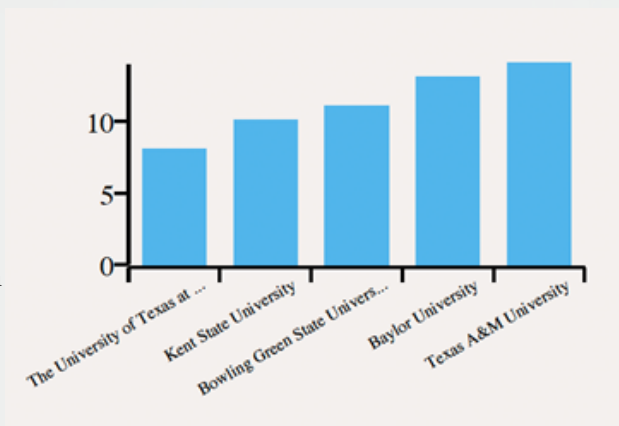
The Founders Lecture challenged the common separation of disciplines in school curricula and proposed a future where integrative learning environments are the norm. Dr. Swarthout's practical examples—from elementary school classrooms to university math teacher preparation—made a strong case for embedding literacy instruction in mathematics teaching at all levels.

REFLECTING, CONNECTING, AND LOOKING AHEAD (CONT.)

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REFLECTING, CONNECTING, AND LOOKING AHEAD (CONT.)

Graduate Student Involvement: The Next Generation of Leaders

RCML 2025 continued the tradition of being a graduate-student-friendly conference. From the moment the program was announced, it was clear that this year would elevate student voices. More than 40 graduate students from institutions across the U.S. shared their research, ranging from early explorations to fully developed studies.

Poster sessions were particularly engaging. One doctoral student from Clemson University remarked:

"*The poster session was my favorite. So many great conversations! I received useful feedback that will help me improve my dissertation.*"

Another student from Bowling Green State added:

"*RCML makes you feel like your research matters, even if it's still in progress. That's rare in academic conferences.*"

From the warm reception of their peers to mentorship from seasoned scholars, graduate students left RCML 2025 with renewed confidence and clarity about their paths forward.

Interactivity and Innovation: Workshops and Panels

RCML 2025 was not just about listening; it was about taking action. Several sessions emphasized hands-on learning experiences, including:

- Mathematical Modeling Through Play: Participants collaborated to solve geometric puzzles using physical manipulatives.
- AI and Lesson Design: A workshop explored how AI platforms like ChatGPT can be utilized to co-create math lesson plans.
- Ethnomathematics in Action: Faculty and graduate students presented lesson designs that incorporated local culture and heritage into math curricula.

These sessions highlighted the reciprocal relationship between research and teaching. Educators left with practical tools, while researchers gained valuable insights into the challenges of implementation.

A Culture of Collegiality and Inclusivity

A hallmark of RCML conferences is the relational atmosphere. Attendees routinely comment on how the organization fosters not only intellectual rigor but also professional generosity. This year was no different. Informal gatherings—breakfast meetings, evening socials, and hallway chats—were rich with collaboration and laughter.

"I was nervous to attend my first RCML, but everyone made me feel like I belonged. I've already found a potential dissertation committee member!" — First-time attendee, graduate student

The blend of formality and friendliness is what sets RCML apart.

Celebrating Leadership and Service

Behind the scenes, RCML 2025 was made possible by the tireless efforts of volunteers and leaders. Special thanks go to:

- Jamaal Young, VP for Conferences, for his vision and coordination
- Nickolaus Ortiz, Karen Zwanch, Lucas Foster, Jennifer Gonzales, Yi-Yin "Winnie" Ko, and Drew O'Neill from the RCML Conference Committee for their year long support of the conference.
- Ann Wheeler, Proceedings Editor, for ensuring that the scholarship from this conference reaches a broader audience.
- The Local Host Committee Ali Bicer and Kristian Edosomwan at Texas A&M University, who managed logistics with grace.

Looking Forward: RCML 2026 in Las Vegas

Next year, the excitement continues as RCML heads to Las Vegas, Nevada for the 53rd Annual Conference! Slated for Spring 2026, this vibrant urban setting offers easy travel access, world-class facilities, and endless entertainment options. But more importantly, it's another opportunity for our community to connect, learn, and grow.

What to Expect:

- A renewed focus on interdisciplinary collaboration
- Expanded graduate student programming
- A mix of research and practice sessions
- A continuation of RCML's inclusive, welcoming spirit

Final Reflections and Acknowledgments

RCML 2025 was more than a conference. It was a community milestone—a space to celebrate what we know, to imagine what's possible, and to commit to mathematics learning that is innovative, integrative, and inclusive. Whether you presented cutting-edge research, facilitated a workshop, engaged in deep discussion, or simply listened with curiosity, you contributed to the vibrancy and success of this year's event. We thank each and every one of you. As we look to the future, let us carry forward the spirit of RCML 2025—grounded in scholarship, fueled by collaboration, and committed to excellence.

ELECTIONS: NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Colleen Eddy

University of North Texas

(2025-2027)

SECRETARY

Katrina Nelson
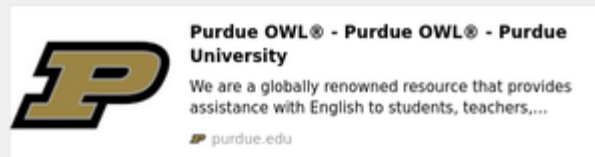
North Carolina A&T University

(2025-2027)

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Graduate
CORNER

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The online writing lab offers global support through online reference materials and services for creating citations, cover letters, major-specific writing help, and general writing advice.

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LIST OF FELLOWSHIPS

The fellowships in the link are the Nationally Competitive Graduate Fellowships recommended by North Carolina State University Graduate School. Many graduate schools also offer fellowships for their own graduate students.

Click!