

# Intersection Points - February 2019

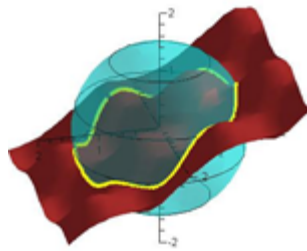
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## INTERSECTION POINTS

The Newsletter of the Research  
Council on Mathematics Learning



**February 2019 - Volume 44 No. 1**

The Research Council on Mathematics Learning seeks to stimulate, generate, coordinate, and disseminate research efforts designed to understand and/or influence factors that affect mathematics learning.

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## *Presidents Column*



**Daniel Brahier**  
**RCML President**

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As I sat down to write this column, it occurred to me that this would be my last article as President of RCML. I am amazed to think it was more than three years ago since I was elected to this position, and having served as President Elect and then two years as President, it is time to pass the gavel at our Annual Business Meeting in Charlotte later this month.

If there is anything that has most prominently marked these last couple of years, it would be the word “digital.” We started by calling a committee together who carefully examined every line of the Constitution and By-Laws of RCML, and the membership approved minor changes that included electronic communications and voting. The newest versions of both were posted at our website and remain there today. Then, through the use of some RCML funding, an undergraduate assistant was hired to take on the task of digitizing all of our files and archives. Makenna Geise at Bowling Green State University has painstakingly removed every page from every box of files and archives, reviewing, organizing, scanning, and filing them. In the process, she completely reorganized the entire Dropbox folder of all things RCML and has entirely

replaced more than a dozen large boxes of materials with a set of online folders that can be searched and read from anywhere.

Meanwhile, we moved the entire process of providing candidate information and voting for officers and committee members to our website. Elections have become completely electronic, and the past two elections have seen more than three times the participation level that we had seen in previous years. In short, members have become more involved through electronic access. Likewise, we changed Board meetings to one-hour, monthly sessions on Friday mornings and made use of WebEx so we could videoconference to discuss current issues. Our Secretary, Travis Olson, immediately posts minutes for each meeting in Dropbox. In addition, we established a Slack account that serves as an online messaging tool where text conversations can be held between meetings and draft files can be uploaded. Slack and WebEx have put the Board more closely in touch than ever before.

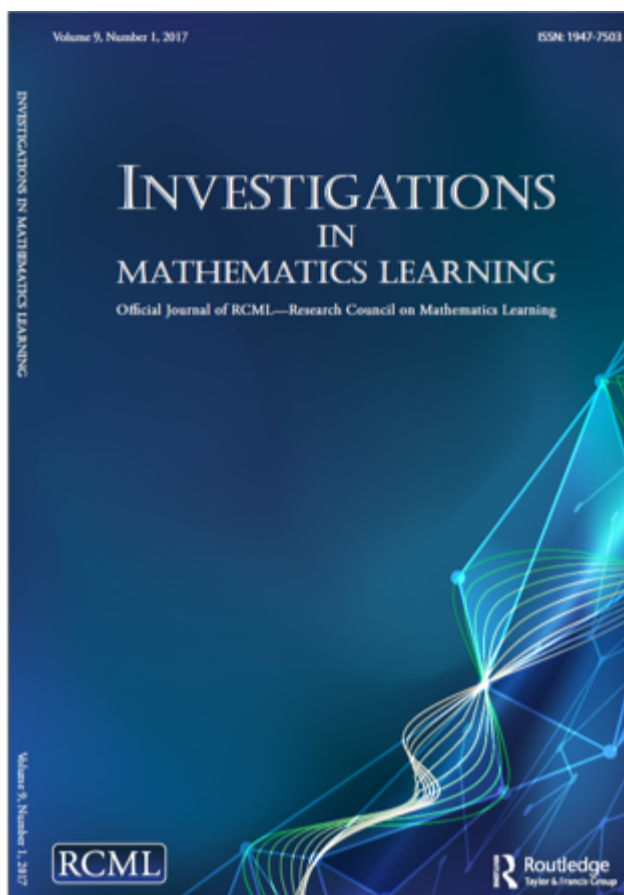
With changes to the website, the entire membership database and all communications and payments are now made through the site, under the direction of our Treasurer and Member Coordinator, Kerri Richardson. The Intersection Points newsletter, served by editor Bill McGalliard, has evolved into a monthly formatted email message, rather than PDF files emailed every few months. This format has allowed us to streamline timely information to members. Finally, we established social media accounts last year on both Facebook and Twitter and appointed a Social Media Director, Natalia Bailey, to make those posts. Working with Gabriel Matney and the Publications Committee, the newly enhanced Investigations in Mathematics Learning journal is accompanied by posts of research articles by way of social media.

I am indebted to Board and Committee members who have tirelessly served the organization over these past years. Our VP for Conferences, Sarah Pratt, has been working with her Conference Committee to project and make arrangements for several years into the future, while our President Elect, Megan Che, has led the charge for this year's elections and prepares to take over as President in Charlotte. RCML has always had the feel of being part of a family, as we all share a common purpose in improving mathematics learning for all students. I look forward to continuing to serve for one more year as Past President and seeing you at our annual meeting in Charlotte from February 28 through March 2. All the best in 2019!

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## ***Publication Pulse***

Gabriel Matney  
VP for RCML Publications



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Investigations in Mathematics Learning

IML continues to draw in vital research from across the field of mathematics education. We have seen marked growth in the publications readership and social media presence. I will share more details at the conference when all the data comes in from our publisher, Taylor and Francis. Of particular note is this year's special issue on Critical Approaches to Disabilities in the learning of mathematics. IML remains strong, hovering just below a 20% acceptance rate and a healthy stream of articles to be published in the pipeline. In fact, we have had so many manuscripts it created a temporary backlog for the printing process. In our negotiations with Taylor and Francis they agreed to print up to 10% more pages in the next volume to help clear the backlog. Be on the lookout for an amazing and large first issue in Volume 11! Authors of accepted manuscripts have seen their articles quickly accessible on the Taylor and Francis website with a DOI number. This enables authors to share their work with the field electronically well before it can be put into print. We continue to work well with

Taylor and Francis to meet the research publication needs of our ever growing field.

### IML Associate Editors

Over the past two years IML's impact and proliferation has greatly expanded in both the number and types of research manuscripts that are being sent for review. The RCML Executive Board approved the expansion of the editorial team to include two associate editors. Through a competitive application and selection process two associate editors were chosen from six highly qualified applicants. Please welcome Dr. Colleen Eddy and Dr. Jonathan Bostic to the IML editorial team and thank them for their service when you see them at the upcoming conference in Charlotte. They have worked well to gel as a team with our editor-in-chief, Drew Polly. Drew is a great editorial leader and works to continue to promote IML as a leading journal in the field of mathematics education.

### IML Reviewers Needed

Though we have added two new associate editors to help with the editorial needs, IML continues to receive many high quality manuscripts that need to be processed through our blind review process. If you are already a reviewer for IML, thank you for helping to make IML a quality journal through your thoughtful reviews. We need more RCML members to join the reviewer pool to continue the quality and to improve the turnaround time on acceptances and rejections. Becoming a reviewer is easy. Go to <http://www.rcml-math.org/investigations> and simply click on the "Review for IML Here" button.

### Renew or Join Before January 1, 2019 to make sure you don't miss an IML Issue

I really like that IML articles are online soon after acceptance, but I still love my print copies of the journal. With IML's publication cycle it is imperative that members renew their membership on time. In order to receive all of 2019 Volume 11 issues in a lovely bound print copy, you must make sure your RCML 2019 dues are paid before January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2019. If you are reading this after January 1<sup>st</sup> please go to <https://www.rcml-math.org/> as soon as possible to renew your membership. Taylor and Francis will begin printing the first issue of Volume 11 at the beginning of January. Taylor and Francis will not be able to reset the production lines and print off a single copy every time a member joins late. If a member does join late, they will receive all the remaining issues in print for that volume and they will of course have the same unfettered access to all the IML articles electronically. Although members could always simply print the e-copy of the issue to read, those kinds of print copies do not fit as nicely on the shelf.

#### Online Access of all IML Articles

Every RCML member has electronic access to all IML articles via Taylor and Francis. To access IML electronically, you need to use your “Member Login” at <http://www.rcml-math.org/>.

From there, you need to follow the “Access IML Online” link. It’s that easy!

#### Submit a Manuscript to IML

For those working on research manuscripts, we encourage you to submit your manuscript to IML. It’s easy to submit through our website, <https://rcml.memberclicks.net/investigations>. Just click on the “Submit to the Journal” button. The editorial team has been working with reviewers to procure a 4-8 week turnaround time on the review process. We hope that you will consider writing a manuscript for the upcoming issues of Investigations in Mathematics Learning.

#### RCML Publication Committee Update

The RCML Publications Committee has been working hard this year to ensure that all of RCML’s publications are of high quality. They have been working hard to solicit reviewers and manuscripts for IML, to give feedback on special issue calls, provide helpful edits for the website, proceedings, and newsletter, as well as stepping up to be reviewers for the special issue. So when you see Kathy Smith, Valerie Sharon, Colleen Eddy, Jennifer Cribbs, Sarah Ives, and Keith Adolphson, please pat them on the back for their service to our RCML community. Sarah Ives and Keith Adolphson have nearly completed their three year term on the Publications Committee. Please take a moment to thank them for their service when you see them at the conference in Charlotte. Elections are currently under way to elect two new members to the publication committee. If you enjoy giving thoughtful input and ensuring all of RCML’s publications are strong please consider running for a publication committee position in the years to come.

#### Intersection Points and RCML Social Media

You have already noticed that the Intersection Points (IP) newsletter has undergone changes this year. Bill McGalliard, the Editor of IP, worked closely with our president, Dan Brahier, and other members of the Executive Board to change the look and distribution schedule. Instead of many columns, articles, and sources of information coming three times per year it now comes once a month during the academic year. Distributing the newsletter more often allows us to get timely information to members and allows us to keep the newsletter a concise read each month. These changes were enacted based on the RCML communication committee recommendation and your feedback to the Intersection Points survey distributed at the business meeting.

RCML Social Media has been up and running strong for more than a year now. One of our newer members, Natalia Bailey, has been appointed to the helm of RCML's social media. Follow @RCMLSocialMedia on twitter and like us on Facebook to get up-to-date info first and even links to free downloads of some of the latest IML articles. For those of you who enjoy engaging in social media discussions I invite you to join the RCML Social Media conversation. Natalia has posted very intriguing mathematics education research articles and thought provoking questions throughout this past year. If you have never taken up social media as a way to engage in professional mathematics education conversations I encourage you to give it a try and connect with other RCML members throughout the year.

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