

# NNN President's Report: 2020

Milo Schield, President

The National Numeracy Network (NNN) has had another good academic year ending in June, 2020. Compared to the MAA or the ASA, NNN is very small. But NNN continues to have a unique and significant impact directly and through the activities of its members.

**NNN Activities:** The three core activities of the NNN are (1) to conduct annual meetings; (2) to support our journal, *Numeracy*, and (3) to support projects that advance numeracy.

1. The 20th annual meeting, Nov., 2019 was co-sponsored by the Charles A. Dana Center.
  - Nick Horton, ASA Fellow, gave the keynote address: Data acumen and data numeracy.
  - There were 31 sessions including the six workshops.
2. In calendar year 2019, under the leadership of senior editor Nathan Grawe, *Numeracy*:
  - had 76,454 downloads: a 28% increase over 2018. This is a primary measure of NNN's impact. *Numeracy* has had 368,028 downloads since inception as of 6/30/2020.
  - published 37 papers: eight more than in any prior year.
  - is now indexed in the Scopus Journal of Metrics. Scopus is the largest abstract and citations database of peer-reviewed literature.
3. NNN officers provided teacher training at San Marcos Community Col. Sept. 20-21, 2019.

## NNN MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **New book:** NNN Vice President, Luke Tunstall, NNN Board member, Victor Piercey, and *Numeracy* senior editor, Gizem Karaali, edited *Shifting Contexts, Stable Core: Advancing Quantitative Literacy in Higher Education* (MAA Notes #88). See *Numeracy* article: <https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/numeracy/vol12/iss2/art13/> To obtain the book, go to [www.maa.org/press](http://www.maa.org/press) and search on 'Contexts'. This book is a must read for anyone interested in Quantitative Literacy or Quantitative Reasoning. This is arguably the most important QL-related publication in the 2020 academic year. Indeed it may be the most important QL-related publication in the last 14 years since Gilman's 2006 *Current Practices in Q/L*. Of those involved in the 21 articles, 11 are members of NNN.
- **New course:** NNN President, Milo Schield, consulted with the University of New Mexico in successfully getting a new confounder-based statistical literacy course approved as satisfying a mathematics requirement for General Education statewide and as being an alternative to traditional statistics for all Business majors.

## PLANS FOR 2021:

- **Meeting:** Running this year's annual meeting entirely online.
- **Survey:** Generating a survey of US colleges on courses offering numeracy: Q/L, S/L and QR. This two-year project will provide unique data on the prevalence of these new courses. More than 15 faculty responded to the initial call for participants.
- **Website:** Developing more unique and interesting content for the NNN website.
- **Document:** Document policies and procedures involving finance, meetings and website.

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- **Statistical Literacy:** Heighten awareness of statistical literacy as a part of numeracy.

**ORGANIZATIONAL STATUS:** The NNN is financially and operationally viable. With stable finances, the new website and better documentation of some procedures, NNN is very close to being easily managed without much training. This facilitates succession management.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is steady with over 100 dues-paying members. NNN is most grateful for the support given by nine institutions including the MAA and the ASA.

**FINANCES:** The NNN has successfully balanced income and expense for the past year – as it has done every year since inception. But now this is being done without grant monies. At this time, NNN's two biggest fixed expenses are: (1) the NNN's support for *Numeracy* and (2) web expense. The University of South Florida (Tampa) is the NNN's biggest institutional supporter since they are covering half the expense connected with *Numeracy*.

Meeting expense is variable. At this point, fees from annual meeting attendees cover about half the expense. Member dues and contributions from the host organization cover the rest.

**WEBSITE:** There were 2,500 visits and 7,400 page views during academic year 2020.

## PERSONNEL:

At the fall 2019 Board Meeting, the following officers were elected or designated

- Eric Gaze, Past-President, Bowdoin College
- Milo Schield, Incoming President, Augsburg University
- Luke Tunstall, Incoming Vice President, Trinity University
- Marc Isaacson, Secretary-Treasurer, Augsburg University

At the fall 2019 Board Meeting, the following Board-members were continued or elected:

- Carol Ann Davis, Assistant Dean, Digital Scholarship Services, University of South Florida
- Katherine Follette, Assistant Professor of Astronomy, Amherst College
- Nathan Grawe, Professor of Economics, Carleton College. Editor of *Numeracy*.
- Sarah Hoiland, Assistant Professor of Behavioral Sciences, Hostos Community College
- Lauren Nelson, Senior Math Curriculum Specialist, Democracy Prep Public Schools
- Victor Piercey, Associate Professor of Mathematics, Ferris State University
- Alisa Rod, Associate Director of the Empirical Reasoning Center, Barnard College
- Monika Sikand, Assistant Professor of Engineering, Physics, & Technology, Bronx C/C

Personnel at *Numeracy* include:

- Executive Editor: Nathan Grawe, Carleton College
- Senior Editors: H. L. (Len) Vacher, Bernard L. Madison and Gizem Karaali
- Contributing Editor: Dorothy I. Wallace, Dartmouth
- Book Review Editor: Michael T. Catalano, Dakota Wesleyan

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**Milo Schield, President**

- Production Editors: Jason Boczar and Carol Ann Davis, University of South Florida