

Texas Math & Science Coaches Association

Vol. 29, No. 2

TMSCA Newspaper

Spring 2020

Where are they now?

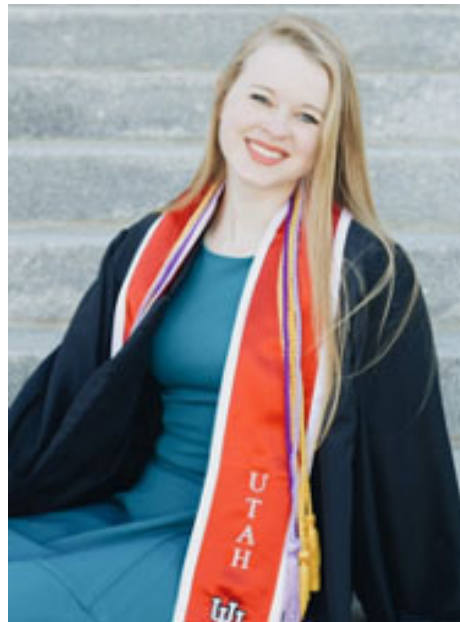
TMSCA catches up with former UIL math, science competitors

TMSCA has decided to feature some former students whose careers have been tremendously influenced by their TMSCA experience. If you would like to share the story of a former student and how his/her college/future career were influenced by their dedicated TMSCA/UIL coaches and participation in TMSCA/UIL competitions, please send this information and/or picture to carolekellamstringfellow@gmail.com.

Our first feature student is Kirsten McDonough Keller. The last time we saw Kirsten she was competing in class AAAA for Abilene Wylie at the 2015 UIL State Meet. She placed first in calculator applications with a score of 325, first in mathematics with a score of 326 and third in number sense with a score of 236.

After high school, Kirsten attended the University of Utah on a scholarship that more than paid for school. She graduated with a 3.99 GPA and is now an actuarial analyst for a life insurance company and does some asset risk reporting for another company. Here are her reflections on UIL and TMSCA competitions:

"I had always made good grades growing up in middle school and didn't really have a favorite subject, but I decided to try out competitive math once I reached sixth grade. I quickly realized my strength in math after being given the possibility to explore many new realms of the subject through TMSCA competitions. The ability to learn at my



Kirsten McDonough Keller

own pace and be challenged with problems each day helped captivate me and interest me in learning like never before.

"The competitive aspect also was a great motivator to practice and drove me to want to be the best I could. Looking back now, I also had so many great times on trips to competitions. I made fast friends with those on my team, and we competed together for seven years and made so many fond memories in the process.

"Once I made it to the last few years of high school, math competitions paved the way for my college choice, major, career and general life success. I was given the opportunity to direct the team my last two years of high school, which included teaching the class and competing myself. This gave me leadership skills as well as great teaching and problem-solving skills that I used

Continued on page 2

TMSCA cancels meets due to coronavirus threat

Coaches,

In 1982, at Trinity University, TMSCA held its first State Meet. Due to unprecedented events in the world, for the first time, TMSCA is unable to hold its annual State Meets.

After much deliberation and continual monitoring of the COVID-19 crisis at the local, state and national level, the TMSCA Executive Board has decided that it is in the best interest of all of our TMSCA coaches and their students to cancel the remaining events on the calendar for the 2019-2020 school year. **The cancelled events include the proposed MS On-Line State Meet, the Tune-Up On-Line Meet and the EL On-Line State Meet.**

We understand there will be many disappointed students as some have spent this year, if not multiple years, preparing for these events. However, first and foremost in the minds of TMSCA is the health and safety of each of our coaches and their students.

We hope that our world will get through this crisis and emerge stronger for the experience. We look forward to the return to a more traditional educational environment and hope that our member schools and all of their students will be ready for a new year and fresh start this fall. Our hope is that all of our coaches and students stay safe and stay well.

The TMSCA Executive Board

2019-2020 TMSCA Executive Board

President-Elect

Steve Holmes
Queen City HS
905 Houston St.
Queen City
75572-0128
School:
903.796.8259
email: sholmes@qcisd.net



MS Director

Carol
Stringfellow
433 Country
Place South
Abilene 79606
Phone:
325-668-9253
email: carolekellamstringfellow@gmail.com



President

Josh Newton
DeSoto ISD
PO Box 128
Dallas 75572
email:
joshua.newton@desotoisd.org



MS Director

Sammy Wyatt
Rankin MS
1300 Upton St.
Rankin 78778
Phone:
436-249-2720
email: swyatt@rankinisd.net



Secretary

Michelle Randall
Pine Tree JH
2100 Loop 281
Longview
75604
Phone:
903.295.5081
email: mrandall@ptisd.org



State Meets Coordinator

Joan Naylor
3132 N.
Trinity Rd.
Denton
76208
Home:
940-391-9746
email: jnay@aol.com



Treasurer

Sheri Woodall
Tioga HS
855 McKnight
Drive
Tioga 76271
email: sheri.woodall@tiogaisd.net



UIL Liason

Cliff McCurdy
Phone:
940-395-3139
email:
gfc800m@gmail.com



HS Director

Tim Orsak
Olney HS
8009 W. Hamilton
Olney 76374
Phone:
940-334-7016



Executive Secretary

Julie Majewski-
Smith
PO Box 206
Olney
76374-0206
Phone:
940-563-1005
FAX: 940-563-1006
e-mail execsectmsca@gmail.com
email regarding newspaper
tmscanews4u@gmail.com

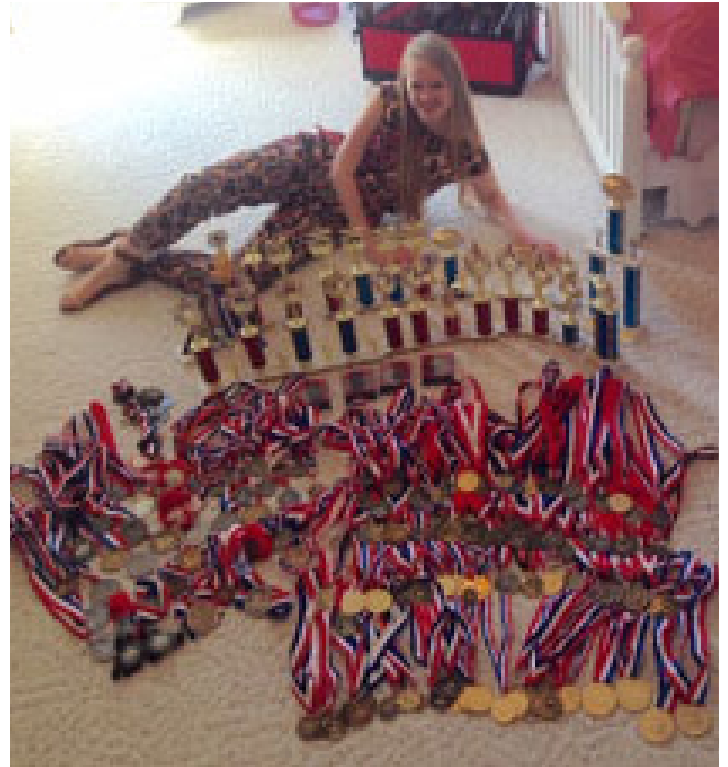


HS Director

Wenzen Chuang
Highland Park HS
4220 Emerson
Dallas 75205
Phone:
972-523-2189
email
chuang@hpsid.org



Editor: Rhonda Moore
4501 Whispering Valley #29
Austin, TX 78727
email:
rhondamoore512@gmail.com



Kirsten McDonough Keller shows off her many math awards from her scholastic career.

Keller attributes scholastic, career success to TMSCA

Continued from page 1

throughout my math tutoring career and continue to use now in my current job.

"Additionally, when it came time to take college entrance exams, I aced the ACT on the first try, and since I had not done any ACT prep prior, I attribute this success to the plethora of testing practice that TMSCA gave me as well as the knowledge I had gained from competition preparation.

"Once I got to college, the choice to major in math was a natural one, and even in my final semesters, I found myself being tested on theorems and concepts that I had been introduced to through TMSCA testing. My collegiate success was almost directly a result of my participation in math competitions, and it led me to pursue and land a career as an actuary.

"I continue to take exams even now that are quite mathematically challenging to certify as an actuary, but I still find that the foundational building blocks that TMSCA competitions taught me conceptually and the test-taking skills it provided are the reason that I continue to have outstanding success in my career.

"Math has become part of my identity scholastically and academically, and I would not have progressed or had such success in it without TMSCA."

Executive Board meets in December 2019

The Dec. 14 TMSCA Executive Board meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Steve Holmes.

Present were: Steve Holmes, president; Josh Newton, president-elect; Sammy Wyatt, middle school director; Wenzen Chuang, high school director; Tim Orsak, high school director; Cliff McCurdy, UIL liaison; Joan Naylor, state meets coordinator; Frances Renfroe, bookkeeper; Julie Majewski-Smith, executive director; Michelle Randall, secretary.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes from the June 22, 2019 Executive Board meeting.

Wenzen Chuang, high school director, made the following suggestions for the HS State Meet:

- Workers in the tab room need to stay with their assigned job to keep the flow of work consistent
- Traffic in the tab room needs to be monitored and kept minimal.
- New missing scores report will be generated to check for missing tests.
- A sign-in sheet will be used to help monitor UTSA student volunteers.
- Specific training to be given to UTSA students with job descriptions clearly explained and delineated.
- Run Chatsworth cards and then look at only the problem ones instead of all of them.

Sammy Wyatt, middle school director, made the following suggestions for the MS Championship Meet.

- Joan will double-check print quality of tests upon delivery on Wednesday prior to meet.
- The Board discussed the plan to recruit experienced high school students to first grade MS Calculator tests at the Championship Meet. The Board approved the plan for 12-15 high school students to help first grade MS Calculator Tests and their included expenses.

Frances Renfroe, bookkeeper, gave the Treasurer’s report, and the Board reviewed it. IRS 990 Form with addendums was reviewed as was the auditor’s report.

Cliff McCurdy, UIL liaison, gave an update on the HS Science test writers for next year. Almost all are in place. Michelle Randall, secretary, gave a report on the UIL Legislative Council meeting that she attended in October. The Council was receptive to the request to combine the MS Science test into one composite test. They will do an official study and revisit this request at the June Council meeting. Hopefully, there will be a rule change next year.

Julie Majewski-Smith, Executive Director, reported:

- On-Line meets report was given
- DISD Report – Proposed spending for year remains consistent with prior years
- Hotel contracts – Marriott contracts are drafted and ready for signature
- Bill Miller BBQ – no price change, so it is recommended the price to schools remains the same
- A miniprojector was purchased to help facilitate production of PowerPoints for in-services/workshops
- Requested approval to invite David Trussell, UIL STEM Director, and Lisa Parker, UIL A+ Academic Director, to the MS State Meet. Their travel expenses were approved.
- Monarch Trophy quote remained the same as prior year.

Joan Naylor, state meets coordinator, reported:

- Dates for the state meets, although not fully confirmed yet, look good right now.
- Fifty percent of grading room directors are lined up
- Currently working on ways to speed up test distribution – both in and out.

Middle School Championship qualifying scores were set. Many factors were weighed, including splitting 5A and 6A scores. After analyzing prior state meet participation, it was decided this split was not warranted at this time. 2020 qualifying scores were approved as listed:

	1A-4A			5A-6a		
	6th	7th	8th	6th	7th	8th
NS	50	75	100	65	105	145
CAL	140	170	200	160	190	220
MTH	60	90	120	90	120	150
SCI	60	80	100	80	110	130

The Board approved California T’s as the vendor for the State T-shirts. The design was chosen and price will remain the same as last year.

The posting date for released tests to the Google Drive shared folders (HS and MS Test Pools) was reviewed. The current deadline is the Friday following a test set’s release for tournament use, but tests are usually posted early. After discussion, it was decided that no change is needed to the required release date at this time.

A proposal was presented to spotlight past HS State winners in the TMSCA newspaper. Articles would emphasize the college and career choices of these students, i.e. “where are they now?” Cliff McCurdy volunteered to oversee this project, and it will be instituted.

The Board approved the MS Regional Qualifier Sites as designated by the MS Directors. These sites will be posted on the TMSCA website and published in the winter newspaper. The motion carried.

TMSCA policy regarding the need for approval of individual qualifying sites for middle school was discussed. After discussion of the reasons this might be needed and the problems that could result if a policy was instituted, it was decided that no action is needed at this time.

The next TMSCA Executive Board meeting will be on March 20, 2020 in San Antonio. The June meeting is tentatively set for June 6, 2020 at the Courtyard NW in Dallas. The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

2020 TMSCA State Meet T-Shirts



COST:
\$17.00
 Order your commemorative shirts from the TMSCA state meets. Limited quantities available. Add \$5.00/shirt for sizes 2XL, 3XL and 4XL. No charge for shipping. School orders ONLY.

School Name: _____

Sponsor: _____ Email: _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____ 4XL _____ (indicate qty. in blank)

Scan and email this form to: execsectmsca@gmail.com or fax to: 940.563.1006.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE BEFORE ORDER IS SHIPPED.

THIS FORM FOR SCHOOL GROUP ORDERS ONLY. INDIVIDUAL ORDERS PLACED USING THIS FORM WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

AMT DUE: \$ _____ Check # _____ P.O.# _____

SHIPPING INFORMATION (UPS delivery - no P.O. Boxes):

School Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Please note:

The 2020-21 order form and membership form will be available online after June 15. The next executive board meeting is June 6.