**50th Anniversary**



**Dinah Zike, Conference Keynote Speaker**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Dinah Zike, M.Ed., is a nationally renowned author, education consultant, and lecturer. She has invented hundreds of educational manipulatives (graphic organizers) that are used internationally by educators, trainers, and consultants. Dinah has developed over 200 supplemental educational books and materials used in homes and classrooms nationally and in English-speaking countries around the world. Her Foldables® are an exclusive feature of McGraw-Hill textbooks.

Five of Dinah's books have won *Learning^TM* magazine's Teachers' Choice Awards. *Envelope Graphic Organizers^TM* and *Foldables® and VKV®s for Phonics, Spelling and Vocabulary PreK-3rd*, were judged top *Professional Development* picks for 2014. *Notebook Foldables®* and *Foldables®, Notebook Foldables®, and VKV®s for Spelling and Vocabulary 4th-12th* were designated *For the Classroom* winners in 2011. Dinah's *Big Book of Books and Activities* won the distinction in 1994, the very first year *Learning^TM* magazine instituted these awards.

Among other awards and recognition, Dinah received the Council for Elementary Science International's *Elementary Science Advocate Award* in 2004, which remains one of her most treasured accolades.

Dinah lives in an 1800s stone house with her husband, three dogs, five longhorns, four chickens, and a dominant cat in the historic village of Comfort in the Texas Hill Country.

## Updated Conference Schedule

7:30 – 8:00    Onsite Registration
8:00 – 9:30    Keynote Speaker (in Fine Arts Complex)
10:00 – 11:00 Session 1
11:30 – 12:30 Session 2
12:30 – 1:30   Lunch (MAGC Bldg.)
1:30 – 2:30    Session 3
3:00 – 4:00    Session 4

## President's Message

For many years, the Rio Grande Valley Council of Teachers of Mathematics (RGVCTM) has organized an annual conference to support mathematics education across South Texas. The 49th Annual Mathematics Conference last November was a great success thanks to the efforts of RGVCTM Board Members, UTPA personnel, volunteers, presenters, exhibitors, and conference attendees. It is through the cooperation of all those involved that we are able to enrich mathematics education for the students of the Rio Grande Valley. We extend a special thanks to the University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley for their continued support in hosting the conference.

We are very excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the RGVCTM Conference this year. Keep looking for more details about the conference as they become available. Join our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter to be one of the 1st to get the information. We invite you to join us for this outstanding event. The conference will be held at UT-RGV on November 7, 2015. The registration form is on page four of this newsletter, and it is available at www.rgvctm.org. We welcome your suggestions for improvement of the conference, presenters, or exhibitors.

*Velma Sanchez*
velmasanchezrgvctm@gmail.com

### 2015 – 2016 RGVCTM Executive Board

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|---|---|
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Join our Facebook Group by clicking here:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/rgvctm/

Follow us on Twitter: **@RGVCTM**

# Upcoming Conferences

**RGVCTM**
**Celebrating a Tradition of Excellence**
**in Math Education**
**Saturday, November 7, 2015**
**UT-RGV**
**Edinburg, Texas**
http://rgvctm.org

**National Council of Teachers of**
**Mathematics (NCTM) Annual**
**Conference**
**April 13 - 16, 2016**
**San Francisco, CA**
http://nctm.org

**Conference for the Advancement of**
**Mathematics Teaching (CAMT)**
**June 29-July 1, 2016**
**San Antonio, TX**
http://camtonline.org

We are now accepting presenter proposals for the 50th annual conference. If you are interested in submitting a presenter proposal or an advertisement for our conference program, you may download the applications for both at the following address:

**www.rgvctm.org**

# The New High School TEKS are now live.
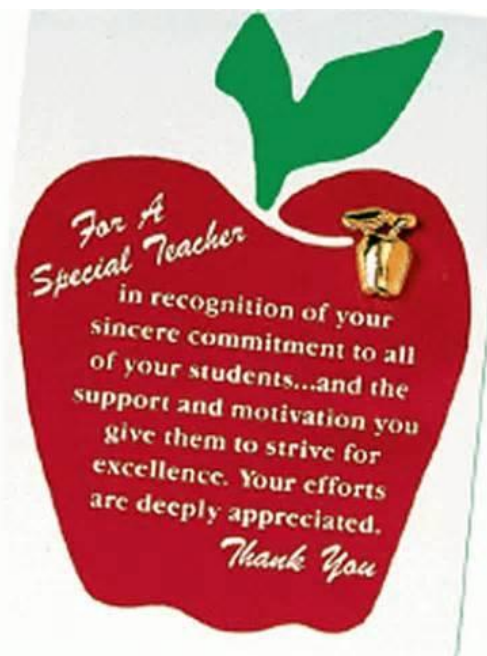
**See the Side-by-Side TEKS here:**
http://goo.gl/XI1dNz

**See the Vertical Alignment Documents here:**
http://goo.gl/MP9z5K

**Find 2015 STAAR Released Items here:**
http://goo.gl/jr01Bm

Scroll toward the bottom of the webpage to find the 2015 questions.



For A Special Teacher in recognition of your sincere commitment to all of your students...and the support and motivation you give them to strive for excellence. Your efforts are deeply appreciated. *Thank You*
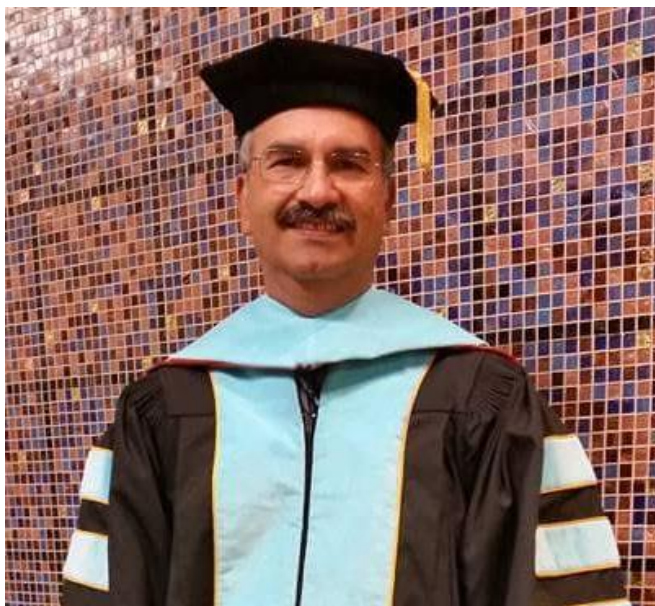
# Congratulations Dr. Frank Rivera

Excerpt from doctoral dissertation by Dr. Frank Rivera, RGVCTM Treasurer

## What is a rectangle?

What if young children were taught the wrong definition of rectangle in school and at home?  For many children, that has been the reality over the years.  As far back as the 1980s, researchers found that some elementary textbooks had lessons about rectangles which created a common misconception about rectangles (Fuys, Geddes, Lovett & Tischler, 1988, Kay, 1987).  In particular, the materials either directly stated or implied that rectangles must have two sides longer than the other two.  Clements and Sarama (2007) found that many materials and toys available to parents also were designed in such a way as to contribute to the misconception.

So, what is a rectangle?  Several modern dictionaries (Soukhanov & Ellis, 1984; Guralnik, 1987, Berube, et al., 1985) define rectangles as having four sides and four right angles.  The definition of rectangle does not require that rectangles have two sides longer than the other two.  Therefore, both squares and oblongs are rectangles.  The concept of oblong was presented by authors who translated Euclid's work from Greek into English (Byrne, 1847, Heath, 1926, and Blau,

2003).  Blau gave the following definition from Euclid, "Of quadrilateral figures, a square was that which was both equilateral and right-angled; an oblong was that which was right-angled but not equilateral…".

Check the textbooks in your elementary schools.  If you find any errors in textbooks in the public schools in Texas, you may report them to the Texas Education Agency by sending a message to textbookerror@tea.texas.gov with the following information:  (1) title of instructional materials, (2) publisher name, (3) item type, (4) ISBN, (5) media type, (6) number of the page on which the error is found, (7) location on page, (8) description of error, (9) name of person reporting the error, (10) teacher name if applicable, (11) school and school district if applicable (Reporting Errors, 2015).

References

Berube, M. S. et al. (1985). *The American heritage dictionary.* Boston: Houghton Miflin.

Blau, H. I. (2003). Foundations of plane geometry. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

Byrne, O. (1847). The first six books of the elements of Euclid in which coloured diagrams and symbols are used instead of letters for the greater ease of learners. London: William Pickering.

Clements, D. H., & Sarama, J. (2007). Early childhood mathematics learning. In F. K. Lester, Jr. (Ed.), Second Handbook of Research on Mathematics Teaching and Learning (pp. 461-555). New York: Information Age Publishing.

Fuys, D., Geddes, D., Lovett, C. J., & Tischler, R. (1988). Van Hiele model of thinking in geometry among adolescents. Journal for Research in Mathematics Education (Monograph No.3). Reston, Virginia: National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Guralnik, D. B. (1987). Webster's new world dictionary of the American language. New York: Warner Books, Inc.

Heath, T. L. (1956). Euclid: The thirteen books of the Elements (2nd ed., Vol. 1). New York: Dover Publications, Inc.

Kay, C. S. (1987). was a square a rectangle? The development of first-grade students' understanding of quadrilaterals with implications for the van hiele theory of the development of geometric thought. Dissertation Abstracts International - A , 47 (08), 2934. (UMI No. AAT 86288909)

Reporting Errors. (2015). Retrieved March 23, 2015, from http://tea.texas.gov/Curriculum_and_Instructional_Programs/Instructional_Materials/Review_and_Adoption_Process/Reporting_Errors/

# RGVCTM
The Rio Grande Valley Council of Teachers of Mathematics

**50th Anniversary**

## 50th Annual RGVCTM Mathematics Conference
### The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX
### November 7, 2015

**On-Site Registration - 7:00 a.m. at Fine Arts Building**          **Conference 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Early Registration Fee - $50.00**          **On – Site/Late Registration Fee - $75.00**

Registration forms must be submitted to Lucy Muñoz via email at **lucymunozrgvctm@gmail.com** on or before the registration deadline, Friday, October 1, 2015.  Early registrants will receive a program approximately 2 weeks prior to the conference date.

**Send check or purchase order to the address listed below. Make checks payable to RGVCTM.**
                              **Lucy Muñoz**
                              906 Jay Drive S.
 **Phone:  Home (956) 867-0456**          Mission, TX 78573          **Fax:  (888) 435-8303**

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**Method of Payment:**

**Personal Check #_____District Check #_____ Money Order #_____ PO#_____**

**If method of payment is a school Purchase Order (PO), invoice should be sent to:**

**Person Responsible for PO:**_____

**Billing Address:**_____

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**Phone #**_____          **Fax #**_____

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**Please type or print (this form must be filled out completely):**

**Last Name:** _____ **First Name:**_____ **M.I.**_____

**Email:**_____

**School District:**_____ **Campus:**_____

**Campus Address:** _____

**City:** _____ **State:**_____ **Zip Code:**_____

**Campus Phone Number:** _____ **Campus Fax Number:**_____

The deadline to cancel a registration for a partial refund is October 1, 2015.  No refunds for registrations will be issued for cancellations which occur after October 1, 2015.

# Betty Rountree Education Grant

The RGVCTM offers several $800 grants to potential and current mathematics teachers each academic school year.  Our goal is to assist individuals who plan continued study leading toward a mathematics teaching certification or who desire to continue studies in undergraduate and/or graduate work in mathematics or mathematics education.  Teachers or paraprofessionals who are current members of RGVCTM and have <u>successfully completed</u> a college level mathematics or mathematics education course may apply for a grant. A member may receive, at most, one grant during each year.  The grant money is to be used to help defray tuition and textbook costs for any mathematics or mathematics education course.

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**RGVCTM's Betty Rountree Grant Application**        Date of Application_____

Name of Applicant_____

Position_____        Grade Level_____

Years of Experience_____                Work Phone_____

District_____

Campus_____

Home Address_____

_____

Home Phone_____

College or university in which you are enrolled_____

Name of mathematics course in which you are enrolled_____

Date or expected date of completion of course_____

Winners must submit proof (e.g. transcript, report card) of completion to receive award.

Please state the need for this grant (financial/academic) and the benefits to be expected from your successful completion of the course in which you are enrolled.  If needed, use additional sheets.

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Send application to Velma Sanchez, 4010 N. Juniper, Pharr, TX  78577.

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