NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MATHEMATICIANS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023 | Vol: 54 | Issue 1

CONTENTS

NAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS- PAST AND PRESENT

Current and past members of The Board of Directors for the National Association of Mathematicians gather together at the NAM Banquet for a quick photo at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

The National Association of Mathematicians (NAM)

publishes the NAM Newsletter four times per year.

NAM's History and Goals: The National Association of Mathematicians, Inc. (known as NAM) was founded in 1969. NAM, a nonprofit professional organization, has always had as its main objectives, the promotion of excellence in the mathematical sciences and the promotion and mathematical development of under-represented minority mathematicians and mathematics students. It also aims to address the issue of the serious shortage of minorities in the workforce of mathematical scientists.

NAM's National Office, subscriptions and membership: National Association of Mathematicians, 2870 Peachtree Rd NW #915-8152, Atlanta, GA 30305; e-mail: info@nam-math.org.

NAM's Official Webpage: http://www.nam-math.org

Newsletter Website: The NAM website has a list of employment as well as summer opportunities on the Advertisements page. It also features past editions of the Newsletter on the Archives page.

Letters to the editor and articles should be addressed to Dr. Chinenye Ofodile via e-mail to editor@nam-math.org.

From the Editor

"If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants."
— Isaac Newton

Hello friends,

I am excited to begin my service as the NAM editor. I can remember vividly the first interactions that I had with NAM as an undergrad at Morehouse College. I can never give back as much as NAM gave to me but it makes me smile to think that I get an opportunity to serve this organization. I still wrestle with the idea that people see me-the kid that just ran behind Dr. Cooper as qualified to serve on the NAM board. I hope to bring new ideas, fresh energy, and do my part to help continue driving the mission of NAM. I hope to continually interact with all of you very soon.

Cheers,
Zerotti

Publishing in the NAM Newsletter

Submissions: The *NAM Newsletter* is a quarterly publication. Articles and letters should be submitted electronically via the website. For advertisements, articles, and announcements, please visit

https://nam-math.org/submitting-advertisements-and-articles.

Advertising:

NAM Online Advertisement Policy: As a part of its Newsletter Advertising, a copy of the advertisement will be placed on the web during the period it appears in the quarterly Newsletter - at the Job Openings website.

NAM Newsletter Print Advertisement Policy for Non-institutional Members: Receipt of your announcement will be acknowledged. You will be billed after the advertisement appears. A copy of the advertisement will be placed on the *NAM Newsletter* website during the period it appears in the *NAM Newsletter.* To estimate the page size, use 12 point font on a standard size page.

1. One issue advertising

A. One-fourth page	$200		D. Two-thirds page	$500
B. One-third page	$300		E. Three-fourths page	$600
C. One-half page	$400		F. One whole page	$800

   *advertisements over one page are pro-rated

2. Consecutive, multiple issue advertising

   Each consecutive issue thereafter 75% of the first issue charge.

NAM Newsletter Print Advertisement Policy for Institutional Members: Receipt of your announcement will be acknowledged. You will be billed after the advertisement appears. Institutional Members of NAM are entitled to one 1/4 page advertisement at 1/2 the regular price during the fiscal year of their membership. Additional advertisements follow the above stated cost structure. A copy of the advertisement will placed on the *NAM Newsletter* website during the period it appears in the *NAM Newsletter.* To estimate the page size, use 12 pt font in your favorite word processing program on a standard size page.

Deadlines: The deadlines for submissions and advertisements can be found in the following table.

Edition	Deadline		Edition	Deadline
Spring	March 1		Fall	September 1
Summer	June 1		Winter	December 1

Advertisements should be submitted electronically via the website
at https://nam-math.org/submitting-advertisements-and-articles.

*We reserve the right to reject any advertising that is not consistent
with the stated goals of NAM, or that is in any way deemed inappropriate.*

Revised 11/19

2023 Joint Mathematics Meetings
by Zerotti Woods

The National Association of Mathematicians organized several sessions at the 2023 Joint Mathematics Meeting. This article serves as a summary of the sessions organized by NAM and sessions where NAM members were featured.

On Thursday, January 5th, and January 7th, NAM and SIAM held a joint mini-symposium on Quantitative Justice. Dr Omayra Ortega was an organizer of this event. Included was a panel discussion entitled: Intersections of Mathematics, Data Science, and Social Justice. A Joint Committee on Women Panel Metacognition was also held on January 5th.

The Claytor-Woodard Lecture was given on Thursday, January 5th 2023 at 2:40 pm. Dr. Ryan Hynd was the Speaker. His work was entitled: The Blaschke-Lebesgue Theorem Revisited.

Dr. Hynd receiving an award after the Claytor-Woodard Lecture

The NAM Haynes-Granville-Browne Session of Presentations by Recent Recipients was given on Friday, January 6, 2023, at 1 pm. The presenters were Dr. Kevin Harris Jr. (Tacoma Community College)-"Decomposition of Modules and Tensor Products over Subalgebras and Truncated Polynomial Rings", Dr. Saber Ahmed (Hamilton College)-"Perplectic-Brauer Algebra", and Dr. Noel Bourne (Carnegie Mellon University)-Classification of pointed Hopf Algebras in Characteristic 2. The person that was awarded the best presentation was announced at the NAM Banquet that was held the night of Friday, January 6th. The winner was Dr. Noel Bourne.

Left image: From left to right, Dr. Kevin Harris Jr., Dr. Noel Bourne, and Dr. Saber Ahmed.
Right image: Dr. Bourne receiving his award for best presentation at the NAM
Haynes-Granville-Browne Presentations by Recent Recipients by Dr. Aris Winger.

At 6 pm on Friday, the NAM Reception and Banquet was held. During the banquet, Dr. Nathan Alexander delivered the Cox-Talbot Address. His talk was entitled "Histories of African Americans Connecting Mathematics and Society."

The lifetime achievement was given to Dr. Scott Williams. Among many accomplishments, Dr. Scott is a co-founder of NAM, gave the Cox-Talbot Lecture in 1990, and has served as NAM newsletter editor for ten years. He is a giant in the NAM community and this award was well-deserved and well-received.

Left image: Dr. Alexander delivering the Cox-Talbot Address
Right image: Past NAM president Dr. Edray Goins introducing the Lifetime Achievement award
recipient Dr. Scott Williams

The NAM events during JMM wrapped up with the NAM Business Meeting. In the meeting, NAM members had an open conversation with the NAM board members. They discussed NAM finances, recent NAM events, upcoming NAM events, and future vision plans for NAM.

NEWSLETTER MATHEMATIC PROBLEM

Want your name in the next newsletter? Want to challange yourself with a touch mathematical problem? Solve the 54.1 NAM Newsletter Mathematics Problem

Calling all Undergrad and Grad Student

What's at stack? Bragging rights and your name and institution in the next NAM newsletter.

Q.E.D

Email your proof to editor@nam-math.org

+   —

We consider palindrome polynomials i.e. polynomials whose coefficients are the same forward or backwards. More formally, polynomials of the form:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i x^i$$

where

$$c_{n-i-1} = c_i \text{ for } 0 \le i \le n-1$$

Prove the following are equivalent:

1. If $f(\alpha) = 0$ then $f(\alpha^{-1}) = 0$

2. f is a palindrome polynomial

3. $f = gh$ where

$$h_{n-i-1} = g_i \text{ for } 0 \le i \le n-1$$

1

Johnny L. Houston Lecture Series at Purdue University
by
Rodrigo Bañuelos, Johnny Brown, and David Goldberg

On February 9, 2023, Dr. Johnny Houston delivered the inaugural lecture at Purdue University named in his honor: **Johnny L. Houston Lecture Series**. Dr. Houston received his B.S. at Morehouse College, M.S. at Atlanta University (now Clark Atlanta University), and his Ph.D. from Purdue in 1974 ("On the Theory of Fitting Classes in Certain Locally Finite Groups," under the direction of Eugene Schenkman).

In 1969 he was one of the founders of the Black Cultural Center (BCC) at Purdue and served as its first director. From its solid foundation, the center has grown significantly and is now considered the gold standard among cultural centers. He was one of the founding members of the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM), also in 1969. Dr. Houston served as the Executive Secretary of NAM from 1975 until 2000 and was presented the NAM Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

Dr. Houston is well-known and has had a long and distinguished research and administrative career, including positions at CAU/Atlanta University, Savannah State University, Stillman College, Fort Valley State University, and Elizabeth City State University, where he served as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He did additional study at the University of Georgia (summer of 1969) and L' Université de Strasbourg (France, 1966-67).

In 2013, Dr. Houston was selected as a Science History Maker (recorded in the Library of Congress). He has received some $12 million dollars in grants for scholarly activities and produced over 25 publications, including 5 books (some in French). He has given scores of scholarly presentations as an invited speaker on 6 continents, 70 countries (25 in Africa), and all 50 states. He has served as a Senior Research Professor, Callaway Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, Department Chair: Math and CS, Director of Computational Science - Scientific Visualization Center, Director of Global Leadership Academy and Textbooks and Learning Materials Program (TLMP). He has served as a Visiting Scientist at the NASA Langley Research Center, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Dr. Houston has received many honors and recognitions, including being a guest at the White House (State Dinner, Sept 2008). He gave the keynote address at CAARMS 6 (Conference for African American Researchers in the Mathematical Sciences) entitled "Numbers That Count and Persons Who Impact, Mathematically."

He gave the Cox-Talbot Address (his farewell address to NAM) entitled "The End of One Era, The Beginning of the Next." Dr. Houston is a life member of NAM, SIAM,

MAA (Board of Governors, 1992-95), and has been a member of AMS, ACM, IEEE, ADMI (2nd VP, 1990-94), MSRI (Advisory Committee, 1993-98), NC Supercomputer Center (Advisory Committee, 1994-2003), APARC, Benjamin Banneker, and Purdue University Mathematics Department (Advisory Committee 1999-2002).

Dr. Houston wrote a very interesting article in the AMS Notices (February, 2018) about those African American mathematicians who inspired him. More recently, he wrote a featured article in the February 2023 AMS Notices "National Association of Mathematicians, Inc. (NAM) Passing the Torch: A Reflection of NAM's Development and Growth by NAM's Leaders/ContributorsÑthe First Five Decades." This is a must read for those interested in NAM, its impact over the years, some notable (hidden) figures, and also the challenges ahead. A full accounting of all his many accomplishments cannot be done here, but fortunately there are multiple websites where much more information may be obtained.

Dr. Houston has had a life rich in achievements and contributions that have inspired countless mathematical scientists from underrepresented groups and has influenced the greater mathematical community for decades. Therefore, it is with great pride that the Department of Mathematics at Purdue University has chosen to recognize Dr. Houston for his lifelong contributions to the mathematical community, particularly the African American community, by establishing the lecture series named in his honor.

He graciously agreed to be the inaugural speaker. The title of his lecture was "Investigating Dynamical Systems-Fractals, Visualizing Chaos and Their Images." He was honored to be introduced by Dr. Patrick J. Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity at Purdue University.

Dr. Houston presented his lecture to a diverse audience giving him the opportunity to share how he initially became interested in infinity, mathematical infinity, computational science and fractals and showed that the concept of a fractal is inherent in nature. The major focus of his presentation was the investigation and examination of properties of some mathematical fractals as dynamical systems and visualizing their images - chaos - in finite space. His presentation culminated with him sharing some current uses of fractals. He rounded out his talk with a discussion regarding the future production of American minority mathematicians at the graduate level - especially African Americans earning PhDs in mathematics.

The Purdue University Black Cultural Center welcomed him back with a reception held at the BCC in his honor. Dr. Houston wrapped up his visit with a luncheon attended by undergraduate and graduate students and shared his wealth of knowledge and experiences with them. One cannot help but be inspired in his presence. His wife Virginia accompanied him to all events and shared her wisdom and experiences with all of us as well. Two incredible people and Purdue thanks them both for the precious

time they spent educating us all.

The **Johnny L. Houston Lecture Series** will be held annually during Black History Month at Purdue. The speakers will be selected based on their research contributions as well as their outreach and service to improve the climate for underrepresented groups, with a particular emphasis on underrepresented ethnic minorities in the mathematical, statistical, and quantitative sciences. □

Robert "Bob" Moses Scholarship

The inaugural scholarship is named in honor of the late Bob Moses, a pioneering civil rights leader and educator who founded The Algebra Project, a national U.S. mathematics literacy program aimed at helping low-income students and students of color achieve the mathematical skills in high school that are a prerequisite for success in college and beyond. The application deadline is April 3, 2023. More information is listed below:

Scholarship Award: $15,000

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Any student who:

- is enrolled as a master's or doctoral student in good standing at a public or private U.S. university during the 2022–2023 academic school year
- demonstrates leadership abilities and commitment to community service
- demonstrates financial need
- is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551

How To Apply:

To apply for the scholarship, you must provide:

- a one-page statement outlining financial need
- the official transcript for your most recently completed academic term; this should include your Fall 2022 grades and cumulative GPA
- two recommendation letters (one should be from a school advisor or the chair of the dissertation committee)
- two original essays, answering the following essay questions (maximum of 500 words per question):
    - Describe how your approach to learning is aligned with the work of Bob Moses.
    - Tell us a bit about yourself, your background, why you should be awarded the Robert (Bob) Moses Scholarship and how this scholarship will help you support underserved communities.

Timeline: Application Portal Open: February 1, 2023 Application Deadline: April 3, 2023

Winner Notified: May 15, 2023

For more information, contact: ETSScholarships@ets.org

NAM Members Selected as AAAS Fellows

Please join us in congratulating two of NAM's members on being named as a 2022 AAAS Fellow

Dr. Talitha M. Washington (Clark Atlanta University/Atlanta University Center) and Dr. Abba Gummel (University of Maryland College Park) were both recognized for there contributions in research, teaching, technology, services to professional societies, administration in academe, industry, and government, and communicating and interpreting science to the public. Please read more about the fellowship on the website.

SIAM Announces the 2023 Class of MGB-SIAM Early Career Fellows

Please join us in congratulating the 2023 Class of MGB-SCIAM Early Career Fellows. The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) announced the 2023 Class of MGB-SIAM Early Career Fellows. They were selected based on their exemplary achievements in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their community, and their commitment to industrial and applied mathematics, computational science, and data science.

The MGB-SIAM Early Career Fellowship recognizes the achievements of early-career applied mathematicians with an emphasis on people who belong to racial and ethnic groups historically excluded from the mathematical sciences in the United States. The fellowship also provides professional activities and career development. The 2023 fellows were chosen by a selection committee consisting of the SIAM Vice President for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; MGB representatives; and SIAM members.

- Jorge Cisneros
- Olaniyi Samuel Iyiola
- Oscar Leong
- Danielle J. Middlebrooks
- Marieme Ngom
- Steven Noel Rodriguez
- Devina Pribadi Sanjaya
- Andrés R. Vindas Meléndez

Please read more about the fellows and the fellowship at:

SIAM Announces the 2023 Class of MGB-SIAM Early Career Fellows
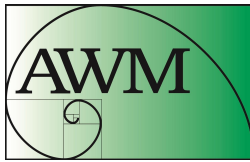
PRESS RELEASE

February 07, 2023

Tatiana Toro Named
2023 AWM-MAA Etta Zuber Falconer Lecturer

In recognition of her distinguished contributions to mathematics and mathematics education as well as her skill in delivering expository lectures, the Association for Women in Mathematics and the Mathematical Association of America are pleased to announce that the 2023 Etta Zuber Falconer Lecturer will be **Dr. Tatiana Toro**, Director of the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (MSRI/SLMath) and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Washington. The Falconer Lecture will be delivered at the MAA MathFest, to be held in Tampa, Florida, from August 2 – 5, 2023.

Citation: Toro earned a B.Sc. in mathematics from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, and an M.Sc. and PhD in mathematics from Stanford. After a year at the Institute for Advanced Study and faculty positions early in her career at UC Berkeley and the University of Chicago, Toro has spent her career at the University of Washington where she serves as Professor of Mathematics. Toro will continue her tenure there during her five-year term, from August 1, 2022, as Director of MSRI/SLMath. She has also been a Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study and a visiting professor at Harvard and at University College, London. Widely recognized for her contributions and service to mathematics, Toro is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society.

Toro is a high-caliber researcher. As noted in her online biography at the AWM Mathematicians of EvenQuads Deck 1, "Toro's research bridges geometric analysis and the calculus of variations on one side and harmonic analysis and the geometry of measures on the other. In particular, she is a leading expert in using ideas rooted in the calculus of variations to study the regularity of problems which do not have an underlying energy/variational structure (e.g. free boundary problems for harmonic measure)." It is also noteworthy that she has had 24 coauthors and 44 peer-reviewed publications, and her research has been continuously supported by the National Science Foundation since 1994.

Known as a clear and entertaining communicator, Toro has presented numerous invited lectures, conference presentations, and seminar talks. She was an invited speaker at the 2010 International Congress of Mathematicians in India, gave the inaugural AMS Mirzakhani Lecture at the 2020 JMM, presented the 2020 Blackwell-Tapia prize lecture at the 2021 conference, and also gave the NAM Claytor-Woodard Lecture at the 2016 JMM.

Toro has mentored many mathematicians, including 8 PhD students and 6 postdocs. Recently awarded the University of Washington Marsha L. Landolt Distinguished Graduate Mentor Award for excellence in mentorship, Toro's mentees speak highly of her support and of her care in crafting mentor-mentee relationships built on a 'balance of challenge and trust'. Toro is an active member of the professional mathematics community; she has served on numerous boards and committees for the AMS, AWM, PIMS, IPAM, and BIRS. She is committed to expanding access to mathematics for under-represented groups through her service on national committees for increasing racial/ethnic and gender diversity in mathematics and her leadership of the Latinx in the Mathematical Sciences conferences. Professor Toro has demonstrated, and continues to demonstrate, excellence in mathematics research, teaching, and outreach, and we are pleased to name her the 2023 Etta Z Falconer Lecturer.

The Falconer lectures were established in memory of Etta Zuber Falconer (1933–2002). Her many years of service in promoting mathematics at Spelman College and efforts to enhance the movement of minorities and women into scientific careers through many forums in the mathematics and science communities were extraordinary. Falconer lecturers are women who have made distinguished contributions to the mathematical sciences or mathematics education.

THE LEGACY OF PROFESSOR JAMES E. JOSEPH (1937 – 2022)

by Johnny L. Houston, PhD
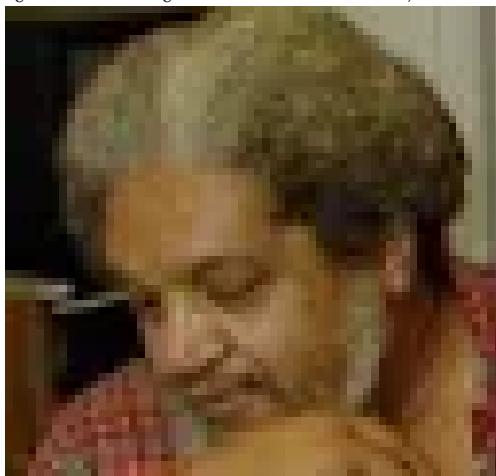
James Edward Joseph, Jr. was born December 24, 1937 in Moss Point, MS and he passed on December 8, 2022 in the Washington, DC area at the age of 84. The first son of James E. and Lydia Joseph, he earned a BS degree from Grambling State U. (LA), in 1959 and a MS from Howard University (1964), both in mathematics. He first joined Howard faculty (1964-69) as Instructor. From 1969-76, he was Math Chair at Federal City College-FDC (now U of the District of Columbia, UDC). Joseph returned to Howard as Assoc. Professor (1976). In 1977, he became the first full professor in Howard's history without a PhD degree.

James E. Joseph is one of a few mathematicians, such as Albert T. Bharucha-Reid, who have had distinguished careers at the frontier of mathematics despite having not earned a PhD degree. James E. Joseph has published approximately 100 scientific papers, mostly in Topology, many in some of the more prestigious mathematical publication journals and the majority of which he was the single author.

Professor Joseph was also the first mathematician invited to give NAM's Claytor–Woodard Lecture when it was established (1980). He delivered this presentation at NAM's National Meeting in San Antonio, TX (at the Joint Mathematics Meetings) in January. The title of his presentation was: "Some New Continuity Notions and Applications."

He was an excellent teacher and research mathematician and has presented many places, including the NY Mathematical Society. Professor Joseph's contributions to the Mathematical Sciences Community, especially, HBCU's and their students, have been impactful and pronounced. Many of his former MS students accepted teaching positions at HBCU's. Prof. Joseph sustained achievement in mathematical research, fulfilled and transcended the promise so courageously founded by the following Howard Professors:

Dudley Woodard, Sr., William W. S. Claytor, and George Butcher (all students in Topology of J. R. Kline at the University of Pennsylvania).

Prof. Joseph received his MS degree in Topology under Butcher in 1964, the same year that his two sisters received their MS degrees in mathematics from Howard. While a Teaching Assistant at Howard (1961-64) Joseph taught a full load as he did while an instructor at Howard (1964-69). He published his first article in 1966. Earlier, Joseph taught math in the public schools of Moss Point, MS and at Grambling St. Univ. He got his 8th grade diploma from St. Peter's Catholic Sch. Pascagoula, MS (1944-1951). He attended Most Pure Heart of Mary HS, Mobile, AL (1951-53), and Magnolia HS (1953-55) in Moss Pt. In the 1960's Joseph solved and submitted solutions to more than a dozen problems (mostly advanced) in the American Mathematical Monthly.

He scored at the 96 percentiles on the Advanced Math Test of the GRE and was offered Math Assistantships by several majority universities. He received the Honorable Mention in the Oak Ridge Competition (1961) and in the National Science Foundation Competition (1964). Honor Societies to which he was elected: Alpha Kappa Mu, Beta Kappa Chi, and Pi Mu Epsilon. He was a member of AMS, MAA, and NAM. In 1980, NAM gave Prof. Joseph a Distinguished Service Award. He had been an active and impactful member of NAM during the 1970's, serving in several capacities of support and leadership.

Although, officially retired from academia, he was still publishing scholarly articles as late as 2020. He has a son (Joffrey) and 3 daughters: Jennifer Lee, Maurice Knighton, and Jacqueline Hines. Some hobbies were, baseball, music (he was in 3 bands), writing poetry, upgrading computers, fishing, and Auto Mechanics. He related to a host of mathematicians: mentors/teachers, colleagues, and fellow/former students. The author had the privilege of relating to him as recent as early this year. He will be missed by those of us who knew him.

Job Openings

Inclusive Paths in Explicit Number Theory (IPENT) The two-week summer school **"Inclusive Paths in Explicit Number Theory"** (IPENT) will take place from July 2 to July 15, 2023 at the BIRS satellite site at UBC Okanagan in Kelowna, British Columbia. It is part of the PIMS-funded Collaborative Research Group on L-functions in Analytic Number Theory.

This event will bring together researchers with expertise in explicit and analytic number theory. The first week of IPENT will have mini-courses and learning activities delivered in a hybrid format. The second week of IPENT will be in person and have organized group research projects in explicit number theory led by senior researchers.

Registration for this event for students and postdocs is now open until March 1. Applications received after March 1 might still be considered for online participation in week 1. Further information on the summer school may be found here:

https://sites.google.com/view/crgl-functions/summer-school-inclusive-paths-in-explicit-number-theory

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Professorial Lecturer or Instructor in Data Science American University Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Washington DC

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics at American University invites applications for a full-time teaching faculty position beginning Fall 2023. Rank will depend on terminal degree and stature in the field. Review of submitted materials is guaranteed if the application is received by March 31, 2023. The search will continue until the position is filled, or until August 13, 2023, whichever comes first. Duties include teaching 18-21 credit hours per year, equivalent to 3 courses per semester. For more details and application instructions, see https://apply.interfolio.com/121492.
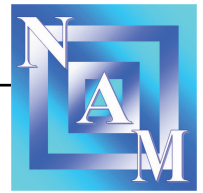
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