CITATION

MARCH 2, 1996

In keeping with the resolve of the Mathematical Association of America to take substantive action each year to honor extraordinarily successful teaching at all post-secondary levels, the Northern California Section of the Association is pleased to identify

G. THOMAS SALLEE

as the recipient of its MAA Sectional

AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS

R. SALLEE, Professor of Mathematics at the University of California, Davis (UCD), has been declared the award winner by a four-person committee appointed by the Chair of the Section to consider nominations submitted by the membership.

Professor Sallee has devoted his academic career to improving mathematics instruction at all levels, from elementary school through the university level. He is relentless in his commitment to enhance the learning experience of his students. He is widely recognized by them not only
as an outstanding teacher but also as a mentor and a friend, a person with a great sense of honor who is there to stimulate learning and facilitate understanding. His influence on his students has been profound, with many of them pursuing advanced degrees and following in his footsteps as educators with a passion for creating and sustaining an environment in which students learn mathematics.

Professor Sallee's contributions to the teaching of mathematics have extended far beyond the university classroom. At UCD he has served as director of the Master of Arts in Mathematics Teaching program, as adviser to undergraduate mathematics clubs, and as a mentor to undergraduates participating in the NSF supported project Minority Undergraduate Research in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences. Beyond the university walls, Professor Sallee is well known for his impact on teacher education through the Northern California Mathematics Project and through his leadership of the curriculum development project College Preparatory Mathematics: Change from Within and Assessment: Change from Within. The revisions to the mathematics curriculum resulting from the latter project are reflected in the texts used by some 2,300 public school teachers throughout California, involving 150,000 students. As a result of his success with these innovative projects, Professor Sallee was awarded a $1,000,000 grant from the Annenberg/CPB Math and Science Project for which he is the Principal Investigator of Making Algebra Accessible to All.

As so succinctly stated by his nominator, Professor Sallee's involvement in experimental projects of this magnitude, his interest in preparation of teachers at the elementary and high school levels, his innovative teaching approaches and emphasis on problem solving, as illustrated in his book Make it Simpler: A Practical Guide for Teaching Problem Solving (coauthored with Carol Meyer) as a supplement to mathematics instruction in grades 5-7, are all reflections of his deep commitment to raising the teaching of mathematics to the highest possible level and imbuing all students with mathematical power as effectively as possible. He has pursued this commitment with an unselfish and dedicated zeal, establishing a reputation among colleagues and educators across the country as a distinguished mathematician and innovative educator.

The Northern California Section of the MAA is pleased to honor this exceptional teacher for his outstanding contributions to mathematics education at all levels.