

Inside the AMS

Trjitzinsky Awards Given

The AMS has made awards to seven undergraduate students through the Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky Memorial Fund. The fund is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Waldemar J., Barbara G., and Juliette Trjitzinsky. The will of Barbara Trjitzinsky stipulates that the income from the bequest should be used to establish a fund in honor of the memory of her husband to assist needy students in mathematics.

For the 2017 awards, the AMS chose seven geographically distributed schools to receive one-time awards of US\$3,000 each. The mathematics departments at those schools then chose students to receive the funds to assist them in pursuit of careers in mathematics. The schools are selected in a random drawing from the pool of AMS institutional members.

Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky was born in Russia in 1901 and received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1926. He taught at a number of institutions before taking a position at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he remained for the rest of his professional life. He showed particular concern for students of mathematics and in some cases made personal efforts to ensure that financial considerations would not hinder their studies. Trjitzinsky was the author of about sixty mathematics papers, primarily on quasi-analytic functions and partial differential equations. A member of the AMS for forty-six years, he died in 1973.

Following are the names of the selected schools for 2017, the names of the students receiving the awards, and brief biographical sketches of the students.

Skidmore College: ALEXANDRA CASSELL is a declared double major in mathematics and computer science at Skidmore College. She was inducted into the New York Alpha Theta Chapter of Pi Mu Epsilon as a sophomore. Alexandra is also a member of the Periclean Honors Forum, the Skidmore College Honors program. She has one of the highest GPAs among Skidmore College mathematics majors and has made the dean's list every semester. This past summer, she participated in the collaborative research program at Skidmore College, working on a project in mathematical biology, where she and another student studied mathematical oscillator models for group behavior of fruit flies. She will work for the mathematics department this year as a quantitative reasoning tutor helping students who need help with basic mathematics. At school,

she is interested in everything from mathematical biology to artificial intelligence and engineering. Her dream job would be to work for NASA programming the Mars Rovers.

Providence College: KEYSHA RODRIGUEZ is a member of the class of 2019 at Providence College. She has declared a Mathematics major with a Business Studies certificate. She also holds a number of leadership positions on campus: Coordinator for the Peer Mentoring Program for first-generation students, Treasurer for the Organization of Latin American Students, and an avid member of the Board of Multicultural Students. As a first-generation student herself, it was hard for her to enter the college atmosphere, let alone thrive in it, but she continues to do so. She has an overarching love for mathematics that is rare in itself; she will spend hours upon hours at her whiteboard practicing problems and listening to music. She declared Mathematics her sophomore year and she says that she does not specifically know why; she just figures one can never go wrong with something they love.

Eastern Michigan University: KATHERINE MAZA is a recent transfer student to Eastern Michigan University. After taking a long break from her studies to stay at home with her children, she returned to school with the intent to complete a bachelor's degree in Architecture. Upon taking a placement mathematics test and placing at a developmental mathematics level, she became determined to increase her knowledge with self-preparation to become eligible for college-level mathematics courses. After two months of diligent study, Katherine successfully placed into Precalculus. She discovered in the process how much she enjoys mathematics and decided she would like to teach mathematics and show others how valuable and enjoyable it can be. Katherine changed her major to mathematics and is working toward the B.S. Mathematics degree.

University of Dallas: MARY KATE TOMASSI is a sophomore math major from Portland, Oregon. She has an interest in both mathematics and computer science, and she is currently exploring what direction her undergraduate studies might take her. Mary Kate is one of those rare students who not only excels in mathematics but who also embraces the mathematics culture at the University of Dallas by working in the department office. She embodies the diligent student who loves learning mathematics and gives fully to the department and her peers.

Lamar University: DESTINY FAITH ALLAIN graduated valedictorian from Warren High School, Warren, Texas, in

2014 and is a senior working on her degree in mathematics at Lamar University. She struggled with the decision of which degree to pursue. She started at Lamar University in the fall of 2014 as a social work major, then moved to biology. Along the path, she also considered mechanical engineering. For the 2017–2018 academic year, she was awarded the prestigious Mary Katherine Bell Regents Scholarship in Mathematics. Upon graduation, she plans on pursuing a career as an applied mathematician in the oil industry.

University of California Riverside: ERIC ZARATE has always loved math. “I remember my fifth grade teacher saying, ‘today we are going to learn Algebra; everyone pay attention because if you do not understand algebra now, it will be your worst nightmare for the rest of your life.’” Eric took that as a challenge and sought tutoring from his father, a man who understands numbers. His first language is Spanish, but he tutored Erik, speaking in broken English, which made it hard to understand him. “I spoke Spanish all my life but my dad taught me that numbers are a completely different language in itself.” Eric applied to UCR because it was close to home, but there were too many variables in the equation and too little time. His family lost their house, he didn’t have a ride to school, and money was too tight. He was the first of his siblings to make it to a university and the first to drop out. After two years, he was able to return, and he recently finished his first year at UCR. “Life is always going to throw obstacles my way, but I am determined to finish what I started.”

St. Mary’s College of California: SABRINA GARCIA is a senior mathematics major at St. Mary’s College. A native of San Jose, Sabrina attended Oak Grove High School, where she participated in soccer and softball, as well as excelling at her studies. Sabrina is the first of her family to attend college and took classes at several junior colleges in and around San Jose, as well as spending a frigid year in Boston at Northeastern before returning to California

—AMS Trjitzinsky Fund announcement

JPBM Statement on NSF Big Ideas

In 2016, the National Science Foundation (NSF) introduced its Ten Big Ideas, identifying areas of national importance for future investment at the frontiers of science and engineering (S&E). These ideas include several in which mathematics and statistics play a key role, including Harnessing the Data Revolution, Understanding the Rules of Life, and the Quantum Leap. In her testimony before the Subcommittee on Research and Technology for the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the US House of Representatives, NSF Chief Operating Officer Joan Ferrini-Mundy signaled the role these ideas may play in funding decisions: “Funding the research that will advance these ideas, and efforts to develop the talented people who can pursue them, will push forward the frontiers of US-based science and engineering, contribute to innovative approaches to solving some of the most pressing problems the world faces, and lead to unimagined discoveries that can change lives.”

The NSF is the only federal agency that funds basic research in all fields of fundamental S&E, and over 60 percent of funding for research in the mathematical sciences comes from the NSF. The Ten Big Ideas are already driving forward new funding opportunities for the mathematical and statistical science research communities, such as Transdisciplinary Research in Principles of Data Science (TRIPODS) and the NSF-Simons Research Centers for Mathematics of Complex Biological Systems (MathBioSys).

The Joint Policy Board for Mathematics—consisting of the American Mathematical Society (AMS), American Statistical Association (ASA), Mathematical Association of America (MAA), and Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)—has issued a statement on *Mathematics and Statistics Community Engagement with NSF Big Ideas* that can be found here: bit.ly/2z9ZqK1.

—AMS Washington Office announcement

Erdős Memorial Lecture

The Erdős Memorial Lecture is an annual invited address named for the prolific mathematician Paul Erdős (1913–1996). The lectures are supported by a fund created by Andrew Beal, a Dallas banker and mathematics enthusiast. The Beal Prize Fund is being held by the AMS until it is awarded for a correct solution to the Beal Conjecture (see www.math.unt.edu/~mauldin/beal.html). At Mr. Beal’s request, the interest from the fund is used to support the Erdős Memorial Lecture.

ANDREA BERTOZZI of the University of California Los Angeles will present the 2018 Erdős Memorial Lecture during the Spring Southeastern Sectional Meeting at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, April 14–15, 2018. For more details, see www.ams.org/meetings/lectures/meet-erdos-lect.

—AMS announcement



We are delighted to share the new AMS logo with you. The official launch will take place at the 2018 Joint Mathematics Meetings.

Our new logo underscores that the AMS is a society of individuals with diverse backgrounds, inspirations, and goals who collectively pursue and advance mathematics research and education. This new logo will favorably represent our organization and help us stand out in the landscape of other mathematical and scientific organizations.

Please note:

- The three spiraling streams of dots of different sizes departing from a distinct origin are dynamically moving forward. Each stream of dots also represents the varied and expanding activities of the Society, as well as our goal to serve mathematicians throughout their long careers.
- Eliminating the closed circle from our old logo demonstrates we are an open and welcoming membership organization.
- The reason the image does not reference any specific mathematical symbol is to reflect our support for the diversity of disciplines within mathematics.
- The font and the blue color from our old logo have been retained to provide continuity. Orange has been added as an energetic and welcoming color, which you may also recognize as a match to the covers of the old paper copies of *Mathematical Reviews* (now available as MathSciNet®).

The new logo is part of the implementation of our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan, which comprises six initiatives addressing diversity; membership; visibility; enhancements to MathSciNet; growth and innovation in our publishing program; and coherence in our portfolio of programs, meetings, publications, and professional services. This plan will strengthen the Society in many key ways and position us well for the coming decades.

The initiative entitled Advocacy, Awareness & Visibility directs us to “create new and consistent branding across the AMS for its publications, programs, and services.”

Survey research revealed that AMS members are less aware of the range of our publications, programs, and services than we realized. The rationale for creating new branding is based, in part, on a desire to increase this awareness and to signal to the mathematics community that the AMS is moving forward in new and important ways. A new logo is just the first step. Moreover, market research on our current logo revealed that the connection between a Greek temple and a mathematical society has become increasingly tenuous among non-members and younger mathematicians, who associate the Greek temple with a financial institution.

This new logo is distinct from that of all other mathematical organizations today. We believe its consistent use across all of our communications will help the AMS stand at the forefront of the mathematics community.

We hope you share our excitement about our new logo and tagline. You can always, of course, reach out to any of us to share any of your thoughts, concerns, and ideas at branding@ams.org.

Thank you.

Kenneth A. Ribet
AMS President

Robert Lazarsfeld
Chair, AMS Board of Trustees

Jennifer Taback
Executive Committee of the AMS Council

Catherine A. Roberts
AMS Executive Director