



AMS Fellowships

The AMS Claytor-Gilmer Fellowship

The AMS established the Claytor-Gilmer Fellowship to further excellence in mathematics research and to help generate wider and sustained participation by Black mathematicians. One fellowship in the amount of \$50,000 will be awarded for the 2022–2023 academic year.

About this Fellowship

Awardees may use the fellowship in any way that most effectively enables their research—for instance, for release time, participation in special research programs, travel support, childcare, etc. The award is issued through the recipient's institution, and no part of it may be utilized for indirect costs. Given the aims of the fellowship, the most likely awardee will be a mid-career Black mathematician based at a US institution whose achievements demonstrate significant potential for further contributions to mathematics.



William S. Claytor, PhD

William S. Claytor, PhD

William Shieffelin Claytor, PhD (1908–1967) was the first African American man to publish a research article in a peer-reviewed mathematics journal, with a paper on topology¹ in the *Annals of Mathematics*. He was the third African American to earn a PhD in mathematics (University of Pennsylvania, 1933). He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in mathematics at Howard University.

After his PhD, he taught at West Virginia State College where one of his students was Katherine Johnson² (of

*Hidden Figures*³ fame). Dr. Claytor's passion for research was diminished by racist attitudes and incidents. This history is recounted in an AMS report. Dr. Claytor spent the majority of his career at Howard University where he succeeded Dr. David Blackwell as department chair.



Gloria Ford Gilmer, PhD

Gloria Ford Gilmer, PhD

Gloria Ford Gilmer, PhD (1928–2021) was the first African American woman to have published mathematics research articles in peer-reviewed journals, with papers on differential equations in the *Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society*⁴ and the *Pacific Journal of Mathematics*.⁵

Dr. Ford Gilmer earned her undergraduate degree from Morgan State University and taught at six different

HBCUs after earning a master's degree in mathematics from the University of Pennsylvania. Later in life she earned a doctorate in curriculum and instruction from Marquette University. She was the first Black woman on the board of governors of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) and also served as a research associate with the US Department of Education. Dr. Ford Gilmer was a leader in the field of ethnomathematics.⁶

Background

In 2020, the AMS took new steps towards addressing racism and promoting full and equitable participation in mathematics education, research, and employment. As part of national outrage about systemic racism, the AMS participated in #ShutDownSTEM day, adopting the AMS Message of Support for and Solidarity with the Black

³<https://www.ams.org/mm140-hidden-figures-podcast>

⁴<https://www.ams.org/journals/proc/1956-007-02/S0002-9939-1956-0077754-3/>

⁵<https://projecteuclid.org/journals/pacific-journal-of-mathematics/volume-6/issue-2/On-the-uniform-convergence-of-a-certain-eigenfunction-series/pjm/1103044127.full>

⁶<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/csme/meas/papers/gilmer.html>

¹<https://doi.org/10.2307/1968496>

²<https://www.ams.org/journals/notices/201903/rnoti-p324.pdf>

Community⁷ and an action plan. Three key elements of the action plan were to create the Task Force on Understanding and Documenting the Historical Role of the AMS in Racial Discrimination,⁸ to establish a new fellowship to support the research of mid-career Black mathematicians, and to launch a new endowed fund for the fellowship and other activities. In consultation with various other professional organizations and individuals in the wider community, the AMS Council established and then named the Claytor-Gilmer Fellowship in early 2021.

Both Dr. William S. Claytor and Dr. Gloria Ford Gilmer are products of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Dr. Claytor and Dr. Ford Gilmer have compelling stories that align with an important intention of the new fellowship: to redress the historical fact that Black men and women have not been adequately supported or recognized by the mathematics community.

Application Period

Applications will be accepted on MathPrograms.org starting October 4, 2021, and the deadline is December 1, 2021. The award recipient will be announced in spring 2022.

Find more application information at <https://www.ams.org/claytor-gilmer>. For questions, contact the Programs Department, American Mathematical Society, 201 Charles Street, Providence, RI 02904-2294; prof-serv@ams.org; 401-455-4189.

The Joan and Joseph Birman Fellowship for Women Scholars

The Joan and Joseph Birman Fellowship for Women Scholars is a mid-career research fellowship specially designed to fit the unique needs of women. The fellowship is open only to women and was established in 2017, made possible by a generous gift from Joan and Joseph Birman. One fellowship in the amount of \$50,000 will be awarded for the 2022–2023 academic year.

About this Fellowship

The fellowship seeks to address the paucity of women at the highest levels of research in mathematics by giving exceptionally talented women extra research support during their mid-career years. The most likely awardee is a mid-career woman, based at a US academic institution, with a well-established research record in a core area of mathematics. The fellowship will be directed toward those for whom the award will make a real difference in the

development of their research careers. Candidates must have a carefully thought-through research plan for the fellowship period. Special circumstances (such as time taken off for care of children or other family members) may be taken into consideration in making the award. The fellowship can be used to provide additional time for research of the awardee, or opportunities to work with collaborators. This may include, but is not limited to, course buy-outs, travel money, childcare support, or support to attend special research programs.

Application Period

Applications will be accepted on MathPrograms.org starting October 4, 2021, and the deadline is December 1, 2021. The award recipient will be announced in spring 2022.

Find more application information at <https://www.ams.org/Birman-fellow>. For questions, contact the Programs Department, American Mathematical Society, 201 Charles Street, Providence, RI 02904-2294; prof-serv@ams.org; 401-455-4189.

The AMS Centennial Research Fellowship Program

The AMS Centennial Research Fellowship Program makes awards annually to outstanding mathematicians to help further their careers in research. One fellowship in the amount of \$50,000 will be awarded for the 2022–2023 academic year.

About this Fellowship

The eligibility rules are as follows: The primary selection criterion for the Centennial Fellowship is the excellence of the candidate's research. Preference will be given to candidates who have not had extensive fellowship support in the past. Recipients may not hold the Centennial Fellowship concurrently with another research fellowship such as a Sloan or NSF Postdoctoral fellowship. Under normal circumstances, the fellowship cannot be deferred. A recipient of the fellowship shall have held his or her doctoral degree for at least three years and not more than twelve years at the inception of the award (that is, must be received between September 1, 2010, and September 1, 2019). Applications will be accepted from those currently holding a tenured, tenure track, postdoctoral, or comparable (at the discretion of the selection committee) position at an institution in North America. Applications should include a cogent plan indicating how the fellowship will be used. The plan should include travel to at least one other institution and should demonstrate that the fellowship will be used for more than

⁷<https://www.ams.org/messageofsupport>

⁸<https://www.ams.org/understanding-ams-history>

reduction of teaching at the candidate's home institution. The selection committee will consider the plan, in addition to the quality of the candidate's research, and will try to award the fellowship to those for whom the award would make a real difference in the development of their research careers. Work in all areas of mathematics, including interdisciplinary work, is eligible.

Application Period

Applications will be accepted on MathPrograms.org starting October 4, 2021, and the deadline is December 1, 2021. The award recipient will be announced in spring 2022.

Find more application information at <https://www.ams.org/emp-centflyer>. For questions, contact the Programs Department, American Mathematical Society, 201 Charles Street, Providence, RI 02904-2294; prof-serv@ams.org; 401-455-4189.

Credits

Photo of William S. Claytor is courtesy of Raymond Louis Wilder Papers, Archives of American Mathematics, [e_math_02076](#), The Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin.
Photo of Gloria Ford Gilmer is courtesy of the Gilmer family.

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