

AWM Prizes Presented in Baltimore

At the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore in January 1998, the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) presented two prizes.

Hay Award for Contributions to Education

In 1990 the AWM established the Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievements in any area of mathematics education, to be interpreted in the broadest possible sense. Named for Louise Hay, who was head of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the award is intended to highlight the importance of mathematics education and to evoke the memory of all that Hay exemplified as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and human being.

The 1998 Hay Award was presented to DEBORAH HUGHES HALLETT of Harvard University and the University of Arizona. The citation for the award calls Hughes Hallett a “first rate classroom teacher as well as a strong administrator.” It goes on to say that “she has a unique ability to get into students’ minds, to work out what they are missing, and to devise a new way to explain something that overcomes the obstacle.” Hughes Hallett is part of the group that developed the so-called “Harvard calculus” book that has been much praised and much debated. “The controversy surrounding it shows how truly innovative it is,” the citation notes. She has also been a major figure in national discussions of mathematics education at the K-12 and collegiate levels.

Schafer Prize for Undergraduate Women

In 1990 the AWM established the Alice T. Schafer Prize for Excellence in Mathematics by an Under-

graduate Woman. The prize recognizes high achievement in mathematics by a female undergraduate student. The prize is named for Alice T. Schafer, professor emerita of Wellesley College and one of the founders of AWM.

The 1998 Schafer Prize was awarded jointly to SHARON ANN LOZANO of the University of Texas at Austin and JESSICA A. SHEPHERD of the University of Utah.

Sharon Ann Lozano is a senior mathematics major whose academic record places her in the top one percent of over 500 mathematics majors. Her honors thesis, written under the direction of Mary Wheeler, involves numerical modeling of surface water flow. The prize citation quotes one of Lozano’s professors as saying: “Sharon is an extraordinary individual and brings to mathematics an excitement and vitality that enlivens the possibilities for the future of the profession.”

Jessica A. Shepherd is a senior mathematics major with a minor in computer science. The citation notes that many of her professors say she is the strongest undergraduate mathematics student they have seen in decades at Utah and that she is on a par with their strongest graduate students. She is the co-author of two research papers. Quoted in the citation, one of her professors says: “Jessica has a superb intellect and tremendous drive and discipline. She has the potential to become an intellectual leader.”

JIE LI of the University of Michigan was cited as runner-up for the Schafer Prize, and PATIENCE MORENO of Carnegie Mellon University and VERA PESHCHANSKY of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn were named as honorable mentions.

—*from AWM Announcements*