

AWM Prizes Presented in San Antonio

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) presented two prizes at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio in January 1999.

Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education

In 1990 the Executive Committee of the AWM established the annual 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. The award honors the memory of Louise Hay, head of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The 1999 recipient of the Hay Award is MARTHA K. SMITH of the University of Texas at Austin. “Ten years ago, when the Texas legislature abolished mathematics education degrees, the responsibility for preparing Texas mathematics teachers was given to mathematics departments across the state—at Austin, Martha Smith assumed this responsibility,” the award citation says. “Throughout her career, Professor Smith has zealously pursued excellence in teaching, experimenting with different teaching methods and incorporating technology, group work, and significant writing projects into her undergraduate teaching long before these became fashionable.” She has received several other awards for her teaching, including her department’s Teaching Excellence Award in 1993. She has developed and taught teacher preparation courses, organized summer institutes for secondary school teachers, and developed communication networks for pre-service and practicing teachers. She is also a respected mathematical scholar in the area of non-

commutative algebra and has been active in encouraging the participation of women in mathematics.

Schafer Prize

In 1990 the Executive Committee of the AWM established the annual Alice T. Schafer Prize to recognize achievement in mathematics by an undergraduate woman. The prize is named for former AWM president and one of its founding members, Alice T. Schafer (professor emerita from Wellesley College), who has contributed a great deal to women in mathematics throughout her career.

The 1999 Schafer prize was presented to CAROLINE J. KLIVANS of Cornell University. A senior, Klivans distinguished herself in her sophomore and junior years in classes mostly populated by upper-division students and graduate students. She was accepted in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at Rutgers University, and while there “she ‘astounded’ the faculty by ‘her ability to assimilate new material and then take it one step further,’” the prize citation says. She invigorated the undergraduate Math Club at Cornell and also organized trips to attend AMS meetings and the spring Bourbaki Seminar in Paris. “Not only do predictions converge on Ms. Klivans’ future as a mathematical ‘leader at a national level,’” the citation says, “they also acknowledge her uniqueness as a ‘wonderful role model for young women in mathematics.’”

There were also four Honorable Mentions for the Schafer Prize: LAURA CIOBANU, Franklin & Marshall College; CATHERINE S. GRASSO, University of Michigan; AMANDA MUELLER, University of Notre Dame; and SUZANNE SHONTZ, University of Northern Iowa.

—*from AWM announcements*