

MAA Prizes Presented in San Antonio

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) presented a number of awards during the Joint Mathematics Meetings held in San Antonio in January 1999.

Gung-Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics

The Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics is the most prestigious award presented by the MAA. This award, first given in 1990, is the successor to the Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics, awarded since 1962, and has been made possible by the late Charles Y. Hu and his wife, Yueh-Gin Gung. It is worth noting that Hu was not a mathematician, but a retired professor of geology at the University of Maryland. He had such strong feelings about the basic nature of mathematics and its importance in all human endeavors that he felt impelled to contribute generously to the discipline.

The 1999 Gung-Hu Award was presented to LEONARD GILLMAN. "Leonard Gillman has made outstanding contributions to our profession throughout his long career," the citation says. "Especially memorable is his leadership as MAA treasurer from 1973 to 1986, including the time of the move of the MAA headquarters to the present Washington, DC, location and his MAA presidency in 1987-88."

Gillman received degrees in mathematics from Columbia University and a diploma (fellow in piano, 1933-38) from the Juilliard Graduate School. He held positions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Purdue University, and the University

of Rochester before moving in 1969 to the University of Texas at Austin, from which he retired in 1987. Gillman "inspired generations of students and young instructors, many of whom are active leaders in the MAA," the citation notes. "In addition to his mathematical leadership, we recognize him for his musicianship, recalling in particular his superb and very popular concerts at our national meetings."

Haimo Awards for Distinguished Teaching

In 1991 the MAA instituted Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in order to honor teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions. In 1993 the MAA Board of Governors renamed the award as the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Deborah Tepper Haimo was president of the MAA, 1991-92.

There were three recipients of the 1999 Haimo Awards. JOEL V. BRAWLEY of Clemson University "is the epitome of what an ideal faculty member should be" the citation for his award says. "He excels at all things one likes to see in faculty members, does so with cheer and flair, and does so solely because he believes that is what 'professor' really means. In particular, however, and most germane to this award, he is an outstanding teacher, and this statement applies to his teaching of undergraduate mathematics, graduate mathematics, his mentoring of Ph.D. students (he has supervised the research of 27 M.S. students and 5 Ph.D.

students), or teaching teachers.” Brawley has received a number of awards for outstanding teaching from Clemson University.

ROBERT W. CASE of Northeastern University received the Haimo Award for distinguished teaching going back to the 1970s. “A constant theme in Professor Case’s teaching is that mathematics learning must be student-centered rather than instructor-centered,” the citation for his award says. “It is in linking the University to the inner city that Professor Case has made his most distinctive and far-reaching contribution, one with national implications.” His work with schools, teachers, and students had led to the design and implementation of a program for introducing state-of-the-art calculus courses in Boston schools that have until now offered no calculus whatsoever. “Half the Boston schools that did not offer calculus now do,” the citation notes. Case has received recognition for his teaching from Northeastern University as well as from the state of Massachusetts.

The Haimo Award citation for JOAN P. HUTCHINSON of Macalester College states: “In the classroom, Professor Hutchinson is recognized for her unusually diligent preparation, her clarity and sense of pace, and her infectious vitality and enthusiasm.” The citation also notes that she has developed her research interests so as to connect with her students. “For many research mathematicians—and Professor Hutchinson is a distinguished one—there are few direct connections between their teaching and research activities, but she has made a highly successful effort to weave the two together. She firmly believes that, in order to be a successful teacher, ‘involvement in research or scholarly work and writing is very important so that one has something new and exciting to talk about.’” Hutchinson has delivered many invited addresses in meetings all over the world, including specialized graph theory meetings and meetings of the AMS, the MAA, and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Chauvenet Prize

The Chauvenet Prize for expository writing, first awarded in 1925 to Gilbert Bliss of the University of Chicago, is given for an outstanding expository article on a mathematical topic by a member of the MAA. The prize is named for William Chauvenet, a professor of mathematics at the United States Naval Academy. It was established through a gift in 1925 from J. L. Coolidge, then MAA president.

The Chauvenet Prize for 1999 was presented to MICHAEL I. ROSEN of Brown University for his article “Niels Hendrik Abel and Equations of the Fifth Degree”, *American Mathematical Monthly*, 1995, pp. 495–505. “Michael I. Rosen treats us to a mathematical journey tracing the historical development of the fascinating proof that a general fifth-degree polynomial cannot be solved in radicals,” the

citation says. While it is well known that Abel was the first to produce a proof, present day proofs use the method of Galois, which was not available to Abel. How did Abel do it? “To answer this, I travelled back in time and read Abel’s original papers,” Rosen said in his response upon receiving the prize. “It was a fascinating journey, and I wrote up some observations on my time travel for the *Monthly*.”

Certificates of Meritorious Service

The Certificates of Meritorious Service are presented for service to the MAA at the national level or for service to a section of the Association. The first such awards were made in 1984. At each January meeting of the MAA, honorees from roughly six sections are recognized. At the San Antonio meeting in 1999 the following individuals were honored: BILLY E. RHOADES of Indiana University, Bloomington (Indiana Section); CHARLES ALEXANDER of the University of Mississippi (Louisiana-Mississippi Section); RANDALL HECKMAN of the University of Nebraska-Kearney (Nebraska-Southeast South Dakota Section); DAVID KULLMAN of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (Ohio Section); and MARCELLUS WADDILL of Wake Forest University (Southeastern Section).

—from MAA announcements