

AWM Awards Presented in Phoenix

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) presented two awards during the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Phoenix in January 2004.

Louise Hay Award

The Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education was established in 1990 to honor the memory of Louise Hay, who was widely recognized for her contributions to mathematical logic and for her devotion to students.

The 2004 Hay Award was presented to BOZENNA PASIK-DUNCAN of the University of Kansas. She received her Ph.D. in stochastic processes from the Warsaw School of Economics in 1978. In 1983 she joined the mathematics faculty at the University of Kansas. Her numerous awards and honors for her research culminated in an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Third Millennium Medal for outstanding achievements and contributions and a Distinguished Member Award from the IEEE Control Systems Society in 2000. In 2001 she became an IEEE Fellow for contributions to identification and stochastic adaptive control.

“Bozenna Pasik-Duncan is a research mathematician with a deep commitment to education with the focus on integrating research, teaching, and learning in science, technology, engineering, and math,” the award citation states. She has received many teaching awards, including the Honor for Outstanding Progressive Educator (HOPE) Award from the University of Kansas; she was the first mathematics professor ever to receive the award. Since 1992 she has run a successful Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, with funding from the National Science Foundation. She has participated in many professional societies activities and has shown a firm commitment to supporting women in mathematics, engineering, and science. “AWM is proud to honor Bozenna Pasik-

Duncan for her broad and inspiring vision of mathematics as a discipline and as a profession, and for her remarkable skill and commitment in carrying out the role of a professional mathematician in a wide variety of communities and settings,” the award citation concluded.

Schafer Prize

The Alice T. Schafer Prize for Excellence in Mathematics by an Undergraduate Woman was established in 1990. The prize is named in honor of Alice T. Schafer, one of the founders of AWM and one of its past presidents.

The 2004 Schafer Prize was awarded to KIMBERLY SPEARS, a senior at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She excelled in graduate courses and participated in the UCLEADS (Leadership Excellence through Advanced Degrees) program at the University of California, Los Angeles. “Her project resulted in a generalization of Gauss’s Law of Quadratic Reciprocity to general (nonabelian) groups,” the prize citation states. Her senior thesis, on a topic in number theory, would have been satisfactory for a Ph.D. at UCSB, one of her professors wrote. When she presented her results in the UCSB arithmetic and geometry seminar, the faculty were astonished. Her papers will be submitted to journals in the fall. The prize citation says: “Her recommenders...praise Kimberly’s ‘remarkable ability to absorb the highlights and essential concepts of broad areas of mathematics quickly’ and one writes that ‘Kimberly is without any doubt the best student I have ever seen in my 16-year career.’” In her response to receiving the prize, Spears wrote: “Every day I have had to do research and learn more math is one that I have enjoyed.”

—From AWM announcements