

MAA Awards Presented in Phoenix

The Mathematical Association of American (MAA) presented several awards at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Phoenix in January 2004.

Tepper Awards for Teaching

The Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, established in 1991, honors college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has had influence beyond their own institutions.

The 2004 Haimo Awards were presented to THOMAS GARRITY of Williams College, ANDREW CHIANG-FUNG LIU of the University of Alberta, and OLYMPIA NICODEMI of the State University of New York College at Geneseo.

The award citation states that Garrity was honored for his “overwhelming enthusiasm, love of everything mathematical, and ability to reach students at every level.” He is known for his exuberant classroom style that keeps students engaged and that inspires them to work hard. He has participated in the successful Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program at Williams, advising a total of thirty-seven summer research students. He is the author of the influential book *All the Mathematics You Missed (But Need to Know for Graduate School)*, which “provides an inspirational overview of the important topics every incoming graduate student should know.”

“Andrew Liu’s popularity as a teacher reflects the enormous energy he expends on teaching, his ability to make mathematics fun, his uncanny sense for

good problems, and his personal interest in his students,” the award citation states. In addition to several local teaching honors, Liu received the David Hilbert International Award for promoting mathematics learning. He has served as a coach and leader for the Putnam Competition and the International Mathematical Olympiad. He has organized mathematics fairs, has directed summer mathematics camps, and runs a weekly Saturday Math Club.

The award citation for Nicodemi states: “In her twenty-two years at SUNY Geneseo, Olympia has provided a role model of excellent teaching and is undoubtedly responsible, in large part, for the unusual growth in mathematics majors (a current high of about 250), 65 percent of whom are female.” Her teaching has been recognized locally by the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in teaching and nationally by the Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Award. She has directed undergraduate research projects and has been a guiding force in the Research Weekend Experience at Geneseo, in which prominent mathematicians come to the campus for three days and which culminates in a research seminar. She has also been a Project NEXt mentor.

Gung and Hu Award for Distinguished Service

The Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics is the most prestigious award made by the MAA. The 2004 award was presented to T. CHRISTINE STEVENS of St. Louis University.

Stevens has made a wide variety of contributions to the mathematical community. As an AMS/MAA/SIAM Congressional Science Fellow, she worked as a legislative assistant for a New York congressman on issues involving defense, arms control, and education for the mathematical sciences, providing a reasoned mathematical voice in an environment in which it had an impact on national legislative policy. In addition, as an associate program director for the Teacher Enhancement Program at the National Science Foundation, she directed the review, funding, post-award management, and evaluation of proposals that had direct consequences for the mathematical preparedness of large numbers of teachers and, consequently, their students. She has also lent her expertise to the larger mathematical community by serving on and chairing MAA and SIAM committees on science policy and education. In 1997 her effectiveness as a teacher and mentor was recognized by the MAA with the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

“But it is through her leadership of Project NEXt that Chris has had by far her greatest influence on all levels of collegiate mathematics,” the award citation states. “Its success and impact may be measured in many ways: participants’ testimonials; the effectiveness of those participants in their home departments; their success as teachers, scholars, and members of the academic community; and the influence the program has had on other academic societies and disciplines.” Stevens created Project NEXt in 1996 with the late James Leitzel. “It is her active leadership, vision, attention to detail, and inextinguishable energy that have enabled the project not just to survive the passing of its co-founder, but to thrive.”

Certificates of Meritorious Service

Each year the MAA presents Certificates of Meritorious Service to sections of the MAA. Those honored in 2004 are: RICHARD BARLOW of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Nebraska-Southeast South Dakota Section; UNDERWOOD DUDLEY of DePauw University, Indiana Section; THOMAS HERN of Bowling Green State University, Ohio Section; JOHN W. KENELLY of Clemson University, Southeastern Section; and STEPHEN LIGH of Southeastern Louisiana University, Louisiana-Mississippi Section.

—*From MAA announcements*