

AWM Awards Presented in San Antonio

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) presented two awards at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio in January 2006.

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 2006 Hay Award was presented to PATRICIA CLARK KENSCHAFT of Montclair State University. The award was made “in recognition of her long career of dedicated service to mathematics and mathematics education”. The prize citation states that Kenschaft has “found her true calling in not only teaching university-level mathematics, but also in writing about, speaking about, and working for mathematics and mathematics education in the areas of K-12 education, the environment, affirmative action and equity, and public awareness of the importance of mathematics in society.” The citation also mentions the wide range of books and articles Kenschaft has written and edited, including her latest book, *Change is Possible: Stories of Women and Minorities in Mathematics* (AMS, 2005). She founded and directed PRIMES, the Project for Resourceful Instruction of Mathematics in the Elementary School, which was supported by fourteen Eisenhower grants and served teachers in nine urban and suburban schools. As a result of her work on this project, Kenschaft developed the book *Math Power: How to Help Your Child Love Mathematics Even If You Don't* (Addison-Wesley-Longman, 1997).

The award citation ends with this quotation from one of Kenschaft’s colleagues: “She deserves to be recognized for her decades of dedication to mathematics and math education and for her innovative and unique contributions in these areas.

In particular, her special attention to children and their parents, women, minorities, and the environment, all with respect to mathematics, have been and continue to be of benefit for the mathematical community and our society as a whole.”

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.

ALEXANDRA OVETSKY of Princeton University was named the 2006 winner of the Schafer Prize. A senior and a Goldwater scholar, Ovetsky is the recipient of the Princeton mathematics department’s Andrew H. Brown Prize for outstanding research in mathematics by a junior. The Brown Prize was given for Ovetsky’s proof of a generalization of a well known theorem of Claude Shannon from 1948. She co-authored a paper, “Surreal dimensions”, which has appeared in *Advances in Applied Mathematics*. In the summer of 2004 she participated in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, where she wrote a paper on well-covered graphs. The following summer she participated in a program at the National Security Agency, and her work there is being published internally by the NSA. The prize citation quoted one of Ovetsky’s mentors as saying, “She already has the research capabilities of an advanced graduate student or junior faculty member.”

Two other senior mathematics majors were also recognized by AWM. ALLISON BISHOP of Princeton University was named runner-up for the Schafer Prize, and ELLEN GASPAROVIC of the College of the Holy Cross received an honorable mention.

—From AWM announcements