

AWM Awards Presented in New Orleans

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) presented two awards at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in New Orleans in January 2007.

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 2007 Hay Award was presented to VIRGINIA MCSHANE WARFIELD of the University of Washington. Warfield's early work on Project SEED, a highly regarded program of mathematical activities for fourth- through sixth-grade students, led to her becoming the leader of the entry-level mathematics courses in the mathematics department at the University of Washington, which she continues to oversee. She significantly revised courses for future elementary teachers and has served as a mentor for graduate students. From 1994 to 2001, she was project director for "Preparing Future Faculty", in which, among other things, she arranged for graduate students to spend time at local community or four-year colleges, took them to conferences on educational issues, and arranged conferences with guest speakers. Warfield was instrumental in creating Washington Teachers of Teachers of Mathematics (WAToToM), at which members of departments of mathematics and mathematics education from around the state get together for a weekend of conversation and idea-sharing. During the past ten years she has played a leading role in three major teacher enhancement projects funded by the National Science Foundation: Creating a Community of Mathematics Learners, Extending the Community of Mathematics Learners, and Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education, all of which partner University of Washington faculty and graduate students with in-service teachers of mathematics. Warfield has also made significant contributions to mathematics education research through her collaboration with Guy Brousseau, which has led to publication of several articles, translation and co-editorship of a book, and, most

recently, a monograph about Brousseau's work and the nature of didactics.

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.

ANA CARAIANI of Princeton University received the 2007 Schafer Prize. A senior at Princeton, Caraiani is already doing professional-level research. In the summers of 2005 and 2006 she participated in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at the University of Minnesota at Duluth and undertook research resulting in a paper "On wild semi-groups". The prize citation says that the paper "introduces new ideas that exhibit significant ingenuity." Caraiani has done very well in her Princeton coursework and is noted for her independence and mathematical sophistication. The prize citation states: "One professor has said that her work 'made you think that it was a professional mathematician who was answering the problems.' Another professor rates her among the top undergraduate mathematics majors in fifty years at Princeton." She won the Putnam Competition twice, scoring among the top five competitors in both her freshman and sophomore years. The mathematics department at Princeton awarded her the Class of 1861 Prize in her sophomore year and the Andrew H. Brown Prize for outstanding juniors. "She is expected to become a major mathematical figure and a world class research mathematician," the prize citation concludes.

Three other senior mathematics majors were recognized by the AWM at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. TAMARA BRODERICK of Princeton University and YAIM COOPER of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology were named the runners-up for the Schafer Prize, and ALYSON DEINES of Kansas State University was an honorable mention recipient.

—From AWM announcements