AWM Awards Given in San Diego

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) presented two awards at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego in January 2008.

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 2008 Louise Hay Award was presented to HARRIET S. POLLATSEK of Mount Holyoke College "in recognition of her wide range of outstanding contributions to mathematics education". The award citation lauds Pollatsek for maintaining an active presence in mathematical research while also making substantial contributions to improving mathematics education at the collegiate level. "What has most characterized her entire career is her love of mathematics and her energy and enthusiasm for fostering a love of it in others," the citation says. "She believes that everyone can benefit from learning mathematics and that the way it is taught should give students multiple opportunities to be brought into the mathematical fold."

Pollatsek came to Mount Holyoke in 1970, and since then she has worked tirelessly to improve courses for math majors and nonmajors alike. She was one of the designers of the Five College Calculus in Context sequence; played a key role in a Dana Foundation effort to increase underrepresented individuals in mathematics courses; and was one of the developers of a program, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, to spread mathematics across the curriculum. For majors and potential majors she co-developed an innovative mathematics laboratory course and then became a coauthor and the lead editor of a textbook for it, *Laboratories in Mathematical Experimentation*. This course has become the cornerstone of the mathematics major at Mount Holyoke. Pollatsek chaired the Mathematical Association of America's Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (CUPM) and led the writing team that produced the *CUPM Curriculum Guide 2004*. On top of all this, Pollatsek has also worked on mathematics education at the precollege level.

The award citation concludes: "By the Louise Hay Award, AWM is proud to honor Harriet S. Pollatsek for her steadfast enthusiasm and commitment to the goal of leading as many students as possible to a genuine and deep appreciation for mathematics and mathematical thinking."

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 2008 Schafer Prize was awarded to GALYNA DOBROVOLSKA of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and to ALISON MILLER of Harvard University.

Dobrovolska is a senior mathematics major at MIT. She has exhausted all of the undergraduate offerings in the mathematics department, earning the highest grades, and has begun taking graduate courses. "Dobrovolska has further distinguished herself through her impressive and original mathematical research," the prize citation says. "Her research is focused in algebra and would be considered broad even for a mathematician much further along in her career." She co-authored a paper that has now been published. In addition to winning a gold medal at the International Mathematics Olympiad, Dobrovolska won the top prize in 2006 in the Summer Program of Undergraduate Research at MIT.

Miller, a senior at Harvard University, is the first woman ever to have won a gold medal in the International Mathematical Olympiad. She also was twice the winner of the Elizabeth Lowell Putnam award for outstanding performance by a woman on the Putnam competition. Her participation in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at the University of Wisconsin led to her writing two papers in number theory. The first answers a deep and difficult question originating in the work of Richard Borcherds and has been published in the *Proceedings of the AMS*. The second paper has appeared as a preprint.

The AWM also awarded honorable mentions to three outstanding senior mathematics majors: NAOMI BROWNSTEIN, University of Central Florida; REAGIN TAYLOR MCNEILL, Smith College; and MARY WOOTTERS, Swarthmore College.

—From AWM announcements