

## INTRODUCING AN AMS MEMBER

# Dr. Jeanette Shakalli

Government of the Republic of Panama



**Member Type:** Affiliate

**AMS Member Since:** 2007

**Undergraduate Institution:** University of Notre Dame

**Favorite Food:** Pasta!!!

**Favorite Non-Math Hobby:** Travel

**PhD-Granting Institution:** Texas A&M University

**The most important service, product, program, or meeting that the AMS offers the mathematical community is...**

The opportunity to network and connect with other amazing mathematicians.

**Favorite Memory From an AMS Conference or Event:**

Running into my PhD thesis advisor and being able to catch up on life with her.

**What does AMS membership mean to you?**

Feeling of belonging to a larger international community of mathematicians.

**Describe the situation when you first fell in love with mathematics.**

When I won the Gold Medal at the National Math Olympics of the Republic of Panama when I was in high school. I had the opportunity to train to represent my country in international competitions. My days were so much fun because I did math ALL DAY LONG and I was so happy! That is when I realized I loved math.

**Who inspired you to study mathematics?**

My dad has always had a passion for math and I inherited his love for math. I was lucky to have had great mentors in my mathematical career who have believed in me and in all the great things I could accomplish, like my PhD advisor, Dr. Sarah Witherspoon.

**How would you describe to a non-math person that mathematics (or at least your area of specialty) is beautiful?**

Math is fun. You can find math in magic, music, sports, mime, nature, art. Math is all around us and has interesting applications in everything that we do. Like Dr. Tim Chartier always says, "If you don't like math, it's probably because you haven't found the area of math that fits better with the way you think." So I encourage everyone to keep exploring the world of mathematics.