Mathematics People

Trjitzinsky Memorial Awards Presented

The AMS has made awards to four undergraduate mathematics majors through the Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky Memorial Fund. The fund is made possible by a bequest from the estate of Waldemar J., Barbara G., and Juliette Trjitzinsky. The will of Barbara Trjitzinsky stipulates that the income from the bequest should be used to establish a fund in honor of the memory of her husband to assist needy students in mathematics.

Each year the AMS selects four geographically distributed schools to which it makes one-time awards of approximately $3,750 each. The mathematics departments of those schools then choose students to receive the funds to assist them in their pursuit of careers in mathematics. The schools are selected in a random drawing from the pool of AMS institutional members. This year the four institutions receiving the award funds were California State University at Long Beach, Case Western Reserve University, Clarkson University, and the University of Houston.

The recipient chosen by California State University at Long Beach, is YEN HAI LE. Le immigrated to the United States with her family from Vietnam in 1995. She carries a double major in applied mathematics and economics and plans to complete her studies for both degrees in two years. She has a grade point average of 4.0.

Case Western Reserve University chose ALEXANDER STATNIKOV, a student from Russia, to receive its award. Statnikov attended Moscow State University of Electronics and Mathematics, where he studied applied mathematics, until he came to the United States in 1999. At Case Western he concentrates on numerical analysis and optimization. After graduation he plans to continue research in multicriteria optimization, developing its applications in various sciences.

Clarkson University selected MATTHEW BARTHOLOMEW, a student from Norwood, New York, to receive the award. Bartholomew is a senior at Clarkson carrying a double major in mathematics and computer science. He has studied physics, biology, chemistry, and psychology, and is an avid hockey player.

The University of Houston presented its award to ALYSSA BURNS of Houston. She earned an undergraduate degree in oceanography from Texas A&M University before deciding to continue her studies in mathematics at Houston. During the past summer she received a stipend from the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, which she used to work on a project in control of fluid flows using numerical approximations of gradients. She serves as a teaching assistant in the mathematics department at Houston.

—Elaine Kehoe

Israel Halperin Prize Awarded

The Israel Halperin Prize has been presented jointly to GUIHUA GONG of the University of Puerto Rico and ALEXANDRU NICA of the University of Waterloo. Gong was cited for his work on the classification problem for C^*-algebras, and Nica for his work on free probability. The award was made at the 28th Annual Canadian Symposium on Operator Algebras, held at The Fields Institute in June 2000.

The Israel Halperin Prize is awarded quinquennially for outstanding work in operator algebras to members of the Canadian mathematical community within approximately ten years of receipt of the Ph.D. The previous winners were Man-Duen Choi (1980), Kenneth Davidson and David

Handelman (1985), Ian Putnam (1990), and Nigel Higson (1995).

—Halperin Prize Committee

Presidential Awards for Mentoring

Two individual mathematicians and two institutional programs in mathematics are among the recipients of the 2000 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. The awards are administered and funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF). They recognize outstanding individual efforts and organizational programs designed to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in mathematics, engineering, and science from kindergarten through twelfth grade and on through the graduate level. Up to ten individuals and ten institutions annually may qualify for the award, which includes a $10,000 grant and a commemorative presidential certificate.

The mathematicians chosen are ABDULALIM A. SHABAZZ of Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, and CARLOS G. SPAHT II of Louisiana State University, Shreveport. Shabazz began his graduate teaching career at Atlanta University (now a part of Clark Atlanta University) in 1957, where he found only two students pursuing master's degrees in mathematics. During the next six years he recruited and graduated 109 students with master's degrees in mathematics. Of this group, 30 went on to earn doctoral degrees from some of the nation's leading universities. In 1986 Shabazz returned to Clark Atlanta University, and within six years 155 undergraduate students were majoring in mathematics. Nineteen of his former students are currently doctoral candidates in mathematics. Shabazz recently returned to his alma mater, Lincoln University, where he continues to teach and mentor. Spaht received his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 1970 and has been a member of the faculty since 1972, winning several teaching awards. He is the developer of the LaPREP program, which encourages middle school and high school students of high ability to successfully complete college programs in mathematics, science, or engineering. He is currently interested in mathematics intervention programs for minorities and in reforming mathematics teaching to incorporate the use of technology.

The programs selected for the awards are California Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA), directed by Michael Aldaco, and Washington Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA), directed by Patricia M. MacGowan.

—From an NSF announcement

Deaths

HERBERT P. GALLIHER, professor emeritus, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, died on August 16, 2000. Born on April 24, 1919, he was a member of the Society for 52 years.

ROBERT B. HERRERA, professor emeritus, Los Angeles City College, died on September 5, 2000. Born on July 24, 1913, he was a member of the Society for 46 years.

GERHARD K. KALISCH, professor emeritus, University of California, Irvine, died on August 29, 2000. Born on December 21, 1914, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

SERGEI KEROV, of the Steklov Institute of Mathematics, died on July 30, 2000. Born on June 12, 1946, he was a member of the Society for 7 years.

WILLIAM E. MOORE of College Park, MD, died on May 12, 2000. Born on March 16, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 50 years.

MARGARET J. MORTON, of the University of Auckland, New Zealand, died on August 31, 2000. Born on September 11, 1944, she was a member of the Society for 11 years.

FRITZ ROTHBERGER, professor emeritus, Acadia University, Canada, died on May 30, 2000. Born on October 14, 1902, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

PARASKEVI STEINBERG, retired, Sacramento City Unified School, died on August 3, 2000. Born on January 17, 1931, she was a member of the Society for 31 years.

CLAYTON J. THOMAS, chief scientist, U.S. Air Force, Air Force Studies and Analysis, Washington, DC, died on March 16, 2000. Born on October 29, 1920, he was a member of the Society for 53 years.

JOHN W. TUKEY, professor emeritus, Princeton University, died on July 25, 2000. Born on June 15, 1916, he was a member of the Society for 64 years.

JAMES M. VAN BUSKIRK, of the University of Oregon, died on May 20, 2000. Born on December 21, 1931, he was a member of the Society for 40 years.