

2002 JPBM Communications Award

The Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (JPBM) Communications Award was established in 1988 to reward and encourage journalists and other communicators who, on a sustained basis, bring accurate mathematical information to nonmathematical audiences. The 2002 award was presented to HELAMAN FERGUSON and CLAIRE FERGUSON at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) in Philadelphia in July 2002.

The JPBM provides a forum for joint projects of the AMS, SIAM, and the Mathematical Association of America. Previous recipients of the JPBM Communications Award are Keith J. Devlin (2001), Sylvia Nasar (2000), Ian Stewart (1999), Constance Reid (1998), Philip J. Davis (1997), Gina Kolata (1996), Martin Gardner (1994), Joel E. Schneider (1993), Ivars Peterson (1991), Hugh Whitemore (1990), and James Gleick (1988).

The citation for the 2002 award states: “The JPBM Communications Award is presented to the Fergusons, who together have dazzled the mathematical community and a far wider public with exquisite sculptures embodying mathematical ideas, along with artful and accessible essays and lectures elucidating the mathematical concepts.

“Helaman Ferguson began his studies as an apprentice to a stone mason, then studied painting at Hamilton College and sculpture in graduate school. He received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Washington in Seattle and taught the subject for seventeen years at Brigham Young University. He now lives and works in Laurel, Maryland, where he has set up an extensive studio

in his home. In addition to selling his works, he designs algorithms for operating machinery and for scientific visualization. He has exhibited and sold his sculptures worldwide.

“Claire Ferguson has worked closely with Helaman as curator, expositor, and publicist on his mathematical sculptures. She is author of the book *Helaman Ferguson, Mathematics in Stone and Bronze*. She is also an artist in her own right and has won scholarships and prizes for her work.”

—Allyn Jackson



Photograph by Lois Sellers, SIAM.

2002 JPBM Communications Award winners Helaman and Claire Ferguson (left), accepting the award from SIAM president Tom Manteuffel (right).