
Inside the AMS

Trjitzinsky Memorial Awards Presented

The AMS has made awards to seven undergraduate students 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.

For the 2008 awards, the AMS chose seven geographically distributed schools to receive one-time awards of US\$3,000 each. The mathematics departments at those schools then chose students to receive the funds to assist them in pursuit of careers in mathematics. The schools are selected in a random drawing from the pool of AMS institutional members.

Waldemar J. Trjitzinsky was born in Russia in 1901 and received his doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1926. He taught at a number of institutions before taking a position at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where he remained for the rest of his professional life. He showed particular concern for students of mathematics and in some cases made personal efforts to ensure that financial considerations would not hinder their studies. Trjitzinsky was the author of about sixty mathematics papers, primarily on quasi-analytic functions and partial differential equations. A member of the AMS for forty-six years, he died in 1973.

Following are the names of the selected schools for 2008, the names of the students receiving Trjitzinsky awards, and brief biographical sketches of the students.

College of Staten Island, City University of New York: JOSEPH ZANCOCCIO. Zancocchio's mathematical interests include prime numbers, cryptography, and Diophantine equations. He also loves epistemological, logical, and metaphysical philosophy and their relation to underlying mathematical branches. He enjoys studying the history of mathematics. He says "math is the backbone of all science, and for that reason I feel like knowledge of math opens my mind to the knowledge contained in all scientific data."

Georgia Southern University: PHILLIP D. LORREN. Lorren lives in Snellville, Georgia, and graduated from South Gwinnett High School, where he took numerous honors and advanced placement classes and served as a mathematics tutor to other students. At Georgia Southern he is active in community service, including tutoring in an adult literacy program, and has served as an Honors Ambassador to promote the University Honors Program. He is active

in the student chapter of the Mathematical Association of America and participated on the Math Jeopardy Team at the 2008 MAA Southeastern Section meeting. He plans to graduate with a math major in 2010.

Humboldt State University: HANS PARSHALL. Parshall lives in Eureka, California. He graduated from Arcata High School, Arcata, California, and enrolled in the College of the Redwoods. He took every mathematics course offered in the curriculum and frequently participated in extracurricular problem-solving sessions known as "Pizza & Problems". He entered the Putnam Competition in December 2007 and earned a score of 10, ranking him in the top third of participants. He looks forward to furthering his study of mathematics at Humboldt State University.

Ithaca College: DAKSHA SHAKYA. Shakya is a native of Nepal. She is a consistent Dean's List student and has been inducted into two national honorary societies. She enjoys sharing ideas and insights and often helps and works with other students with academic and personal issues. During the summer of 2008 she held a Dana Internship working with a faculty member on the Prisoner Express Program and teaching math to interested members of the Ithaca community.

Luther College: AARON PETERSON. Peterson, a senior, lives in Lindstrom, Minnesota. He began college as a music major but switched to mathematics after taking courses in linear algebra and discrete mathematics. He is currently co-president of the Luther College math club and competes in numerous intercollegiate math competitions. He has held undergraduate research fellowships at the University of Iowa and Texas A&M University and has published a research article. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. degree in mathematics and a career in postsecondary education.

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee: AMANDA J. MUELLER. Mueller lives in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and is carrying a double major in mathematics and physics at the university. She graduated from Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where she was awarded the HEAB Academic Excellence Scholarship. She has worked as a tutor and is currently employed by a developer of computer forensics technology. She enjoys computer programming, singing, theater, and playing piano.

Wright State University: FAITH L. BUELL. Buell is a first-generation college student working toward a bachelor's degree in mathematics. She was elected to the National Honor Society in high school and is in the honors program at Wright State. She volunteers at food pantries and is involved in many church activities, as well as assisting in tutoring elementary school children in the Dayton area.

—Elaine Kehoe

Epsilon Scholarships Awarded for 2008

The AMS has awarded nine scholarships to students attending programs for mathematically talented high school students held during the summer of 2008. Six students received Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Scholarships, one received a Roderick P. Caldwell Scholarship, and two received Robert H. Oehmke Scholarships.

The Fan Scholarships were awarded to: ZEV ROSENGARTEN to attend the Ross Mathematics Program at Ohio State University; CEDRIC STRICKLAND for the Texas State University Honors Summer Math Camp in San Marcos, Texas; SETH B. KLEINSCHMIDT for the Michigan Math and Science Scholars Summer Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; KATRINA BIELE to attend PROMYS (Program in Mathematics for Young Scholars) at Boston University; TALA HUHE for HCSSiM (Hampshire College Summer Studies in Mathematics) in Amherst, Massachusetts; and KATHLEEN ZHOU for MathPath at the University of Vermont, Burlington.

MATEJ PENCIÁK was awarded the Caldwell Scholarship to attend the Ross Mathematics Program.

The Oehmke Scholarships were awarded to ERIN ROACH for the Michigan Math and Science Scholars Summer Program and ELIZABETH SIMON for HCSSiM.

The Epsilon Scholarships are supported by the Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Endowment; by a gift from the Robert H. Oehmke Charitable Fund; and by a gift from Winifred A. Caldwell in memory of her husband, Roderick P. C. Caldwell. For more information on the Epsilon program, see <http://www.ams.org/development/epsilon.html>.

—AMS announcement

From the AMS Public Awareness Office

• **This Mathematical Month—monthly postings of vignettes on people, publications, and mathematics to inform and entertain.** Read about events that occurred in the month of December: Henri Poincaré wrote a letter acknowledging a serious problem in his work on the n -body problem, John Nash received the Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences, the first meeting of the Bourbaki group was held, and more, at <http://www.ams.org/ams/trismathmonth-dec.html>.

• **Headlines & Deadlines.** AMS members may sign up to receive twice-monthly email notifications of news and announcements about programs, publications, and events, as well as alerts about deadlines for fellowship and grant applications, calls for proposals, and meeting registrations. The service provides a convenient way to have news that is posted on the AMS page—and some announcements and deadlines before they appear in the *Notices*—delivered directly to you. It's easy to subscribe (and unsubscribe), at <http://www.ams.org/enews>.

• **Math in the Media.** Explore the current month and archive at <http://www.ams.org/mathmedia/>, including “Tony Phillips’ Take on Math in the Media”—in which Phillips (Stony Brook University) offers his perspective on items that have appeared in the media—and “Math Digest”, which provides summaries of media coverage of

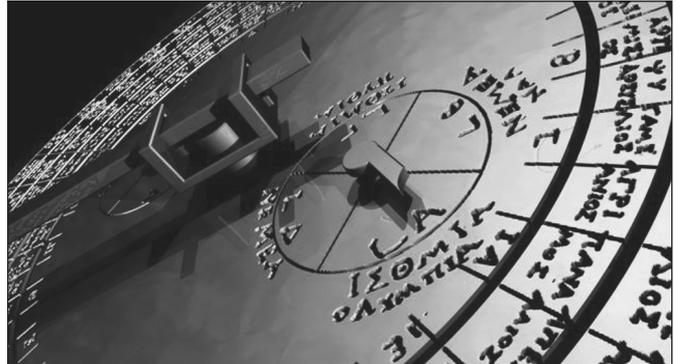


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math, edited by Allyn Jackson (deputy editor of the *Notices*). Recent stories in the media were the mountain peak in Colorado named after mathematician Donald Clayton Spencer, the Antikythera Mechanism, girls and math, the “Water Cube”—the National Aquatics Center for the Olympics held in Beijing, to name just a few. *Math in the Media* also includes “Reviews”—links to hundreds of reviews of books, plays, and films. The AMS Public Awareness Office invites members to send links for articles in their local newspapers and on local radio programs related to mathematics to paoffice@ams.org.

—Annette Emerson and Mike Breen, AMS Public Awareness Officers paoffice@ams.org

Deaths of AMS Members

KENNETH M. HOFFMAN, professor emeritus, MIT, died on September 29, 2008. Born on November 30, 1930, he was a member of the Society for 53 years.

RONALD G. MOSIER, retired, from Daimler Chrysler, died on September 13, 2008. Born on May 17, 1938, he was a member of the Society for 33 years.

MARCIA P. SWARD, former executive director of the MAA, died on September 21, 2008. Born on February 1, 1939, she was a member of the Society for 40 years.

WILLIAM C. SWIFT, from Crawfordsville, IN, died on September 11, 2008. Born on March 17, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 30 years.