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# Inside the AMS

## 2011 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 2011 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 2011, the names of the students receiving Trjitzinsky awards, and brief biographical sketches of the students.

**Brooklyn College:** MAOCAI WU. Wu, who came to Brooklyn in 2004 from China, plans to major in mathematics and actuarial mathematics programs and minor in economics and finance. He is interested in teaching, and during the past three years he has worked part time as a high school math tutor at the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search. His goal is to become an actuary.

**California State University San Marcos:** JEFFREY HART. Hart is a senior mathematics major. After earning his bachelor's degree he plans to attain a Single Subject Credential in Mathematics to teach mathematics at a high school level "to encourage student interest in the subject as they go toward college." He enjoys playing board games and

learning about home design and construction; he hopes one day to design and build his own home.

**Central Michigan University:** TYLER WIPPEL. Wippel is a second-year undergraduate student majoring in mathematics. During his first year at Central Michigan University, he engaged in a collaborative student research project on pedagogical strategies used by high school teachers in advanced placement classes. He is an honors student and is actively involved in the University Honors Program. He wants to become a high school math teacher and to share his knowledge of math with students in an inner-city school.

**Colorado State University:** DAVID S. ALLEN. Allen attended Phil-Mont High School in Philadelphia, where he focused on the arts. After graduation he founded a video production company. After working in the field for some time, he entered Bucks County Community College as a biology major and discovered a love for mathematics that led him to change his major. He earned his associate's degree and is now completing his bachelor's degree in general mathematics at Colorado State University. His interests include backpacking and skiing, reading, and traveling abroad. He plans to pursue graduate studies in mathematics and eventually work in academia.

**University of Minnesota, Twin Cities:** XAVIER E. GARCIA. Garcia moved to the United States from Colombia when he was twelve years old. He is now a mathematics major in the university honors program and serves as a tutor in the Multicultural Center for Academic Excellence on campus. He spent the summer of 2011 at Iowa State University in a Research Experience for Undergraduates program on dynamical systems. He intends to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics.

**Ohio Wesleyan University:** AMINA S. MENDEZ. Mendez, now a junior mathematics major and computer science minor, comes from the Philippines. In high school she jointly authored a research paper that was published in a university scientific journal and that she presented at a regional science fair. She was awarded national and private scholarships and attended the University of the Philippines, where she was a University Scholar. She will complete her undergraduate studies at Ohio Wesleyan University (focusing on abstract algebra and statistics) and plans to continue her studies in graduate school to pursue a career in academia, partly as a tribute to her third-grade teacher, who inspired her passion for mathematics.

**Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi:** AMANDA N. RODRIGUEZ. Rodriguez is a first-generation college student pursuing a bachelor's degree in mathematics while tutoring her peers in advanced mathematics. Inspired by her tutoring experiences dating back to high school, she hopes to become a high school calculus teacher "so that I can instill my passion for math in my students and make the subject fun and easy to understand." She also plans to continue her studies and eventually become a mathematics professor.

—*Elaine Kehoe*

## Erdős Memorial Lecture

The Erdős Memorial Lecture is an annual invited address named for the prolific mathematician Paul Erdős (1913–1996). The lectures are supported by a fund created by Andrew Beal, a Dallas banker and mathematics enthusiast. The Beal Prize Fund, now US\$100,000, is being held by the AMS until it is awarded for a correct solution to the Beal Conjecture (see [www.math.unt.edu/~mauldin/beal.html](http://www.math.unt.edu/~mauldin/beal.html)). At Beal's request, the interest from the fund is used to support the Erdős Memorial Lecture.

The Erdős Memorial Lecturer for 2011 was Emmanuel Candes of Stanford University, who delivered a lecture titled "Recovering the Unseen: Some Recent Advances in Low-Rank Matrix Reconstruction" at the Fall Central Section Meeting at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, on October 15, 2011.

—*AMS announcement*

## From the AMS Public Awareness Office



**Joan Hutchinson (center) and Who Wants to Be a Mathematician contestants.**

**Arnold Ross Lecture:** Joan Hutchinson (pictured above, front row, center) gave the 2011 Arnold Ross Lecture, "From Crayons to Color Graphics: How Some Mathematicians Use Color", at the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. Hutchinson explained many of the ideas and

problems in chromatic graph theory to an audience of 100 students and teachers. Following the lecture, eight St. Paul-area high school students (also pictured) played Who Wants to Be a Mathematician, at which more than US\$2,000 in cash and prizes was awarded. Read more about the lecture and game at <http://www.ams.org/programs/students/wwtbam/ar12011>.

**MathSciNet Tutorials:** MathSciNet Tutorials are now available. The tutorials cover publications, authors, journals, and citation searches, as well as the Free Tools and Preferences options, to help users learn how to take full advantage of the rich structure of the database. Researchers may well discover new features and search options to make MathSciNet an even more useful resource. Explore the tutorials at <http://www.mathscinet.info/>.

—*Annette Emerson and Mike Breen,*  
AMS Public Awareness Officers  
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## Deaths of AMS Members

HANS-JÜRGEN BORCHERS, professor, University of Göttingen, died on September 10, 2011. Born on January 24, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 43 years.

ALBRECHT E. DOLD, professor, University of Heidelberg, died on September 26, 2011. Born on August 5, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

ARIE GAALSWYK, professor, Augustana College, died on June 21, 2009. Born on June 14, 1918, he was a member of the Society for 62 years.

JOHN G. HOCKING, professor, Michigan State University, died on March 23, 2011. Born on September 26, 1920, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

LAWRENCE E. PAYNE, professor, Cornell University, died on August 11, 2011. Born on October 2, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 63 years.

JOSEPH A. PIRRAGLIA, of North Providence, Rhode Island, died on September 12, 2011. Born on July 15, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 29 years.

DANIEL G. QUILLEN, professor, University of Oxford, died on April 30, 2011. Born on June 22, 1940, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.

ROY TAKENAGA, of Pasadena, California, died on September 23, 2011. Born on April 21, 1921, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

ERIK G. F. THOMAS, of Paterswolde, Netherlands, died on September 13, 2011. Born on February 19, 1939, he was a member of the Society for 41 years.

DANIEL B. J. TOMIUK, of Ontario, Canada, died on August 31, 2011. Born on May 15, 1927, he was a member of the Society for 53 years.