Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award

In 1991 the Mathematical Association of America instituted Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in order to honor college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has been shown to have had influence beyond their own institutions. In 1993 the MAA Board of Governors renamed the award to honor Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo. Each year at most three college or university teachers are honored with this award.

Robin Wilson

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Dr. Robin Wilson is an exemplary classroom instructor and selfless mentor; he is a builder and facilitator of programs that address the mathematical pipeline from K–12 through post-graduate education; and he is a tireless worker who transforms the culture of mathematics to one that values diversity and that acts inclusively and equitably to allow all to flourish.

Robin's classroom practices demonstrate his belief that supporting the most marginalized students improves outcomes for all students. He expects his students to meet high standards and provides abundant support in the form of culturally responsive pedagogies, structured group projects, and thoughtful IBL methodologies. He works to build communities of learners. He has developed service-learning courses. He ties students' academic learning to their lived experiences by designing courses such as "Teaching Math for Social Justice" and "Math Literacy, Access, and Culture." In more traditional math classes, Robin's practices are explicitly appreciate students as complete people and thus create inclusive, culturally responsive environments.

Robin has mentored and advised hundreds of students, many of whom are from marginalized populations. Robin's former students describe the many ways Robin has supported them and helped them affirm that they belong in the mathematics community. They cite his exceptional any-time availability to them and how critical it has been to have had such a student-focused African American role model in mathematics. Two telling quotes from students: "I have not met anyone who is more selfless than Dr. Wilson" and "Robin is the model that I use to shape my own acts of teaching, scholarship, and mentoring to be able to continue his legacy of a welcoming mathematical community."

Dr. Wilson's outstanding record of excellence as a mathematician and educator reaches beyond his classroom and home institution. He co-directs the NSF-funded BAMM! Project (Bolstering the Advancement of Masters in Mathematics). He continually participates in programs such as PUMP (Preparing for Undergraduates through Mentoring for PhD) by designing challenging mathematical projects for future PhDs. He has a proven track record in mathematics education, including directing the California Math Project at Cal Poly Pomona, a K–12 teacher professional development project, and facilitating workshops for faculty in venues such as the Academy for Inquiry-Based Learning. He also organizes math literacy activities and works closely with The Algebra Project, Inc. on national and local projects.

Robin works tirelessly with current and future K–12 and college mathematics instructors to facilitate their adoption of evidence-based, student-centered and equity-centered pedagogies. As a co-PI on a First in the World grant, Robin led colleagues through implementing a flipped structure for calculus by creating numerous videos, pre-reading assignments, and other course materials into which he has incorporated equity-forward grading approaches. Stan Yoshinobu writes "Dr. Wilson was recruited specifically to be a facilitator [to run IBL workshops for college math instructors] due to his expertise and skill in teaching and equity in math."

In light of the profound impact Robin has had on students at his own institution and around the country, and his equally profound influence on mathematicians to embrace diverse participation in mathemat-

ics and mathematics teaching, the MAA is honored to present Dr. Robin Wilson with the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics.

Response

It's an honor to be recognized by my peers in the mathematics community with a Haimo Award and I am humbled to join the group of award recipients. I am extremely thankful for my friends that nominated me and for the students and colleagues that supported my nomination and selection. My work teaching and mentoring students has been the most fulfilling part of my career, so this reward is especially meaningful. It was through my experience working as an undergraduate in Uri Treisman's PDP program at UC Berkeley that I found my motivation to study and teach mathematics. Through NAM I found the support to continue the journey. And it was through the Algebra Project that I found my purpose for studying and teaching mathematics. Throughout my career I have drawn heavily from the ideas of Bob Moses and his effort to put students' voices and experiences in the center of the mathematics classroom and all in our conversations about mathematics learning. The Algebra Project community and PDP communities and their expertise on teaching and learning mathematics have been a foundation for my teaching practice. Since my time as a Project NeXT Fellow the MAA has been an important part of my development. Through the MAA and organizations like NAM and AWM I have had the opportunity to surround myself with a community committed to student centered, inclusive teaching practices, that values diversity, and that is willing to work together to begin to confront the historic injustices in our departments, institutions, and professional organizations. This recognition for me is recognition of the community that I am a part of and the many students, teachers, mentors, and colleagues that I have had the privilege to work with and learn from. I want to thank the many folks that have taken the time to go out of their way to welcome me to the mathematics community, support me on my journey, and have helped me feel that I have a place here. I also want to thank the communities that I am a part of where I have found allies in supporting Black, Latinx, Indigenous students, and other students of color including NAM, SACNAS, MESCal, NeXT, AIBL, and my colleagues at Cal Poly Pomona. Most importantly I want to thank my wife and two children who I learn the most from and who continue to teach me new things every day.

Biographical Sketch

Robin T. Wilson is a professor of mathematics at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The product of the public school system in Sacramento, CA, he attended UC Berkeley where he developed a passion for teaching mathematics as a student in Berkeley's Professional Development Program started by Uri Treisman. After earning his bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1999, he went on to obtain his master's degree in mathematics from Howard University in 2001 and his PhD in mathematics from UC Davis in 2006. He joined the faculty at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in 2007 after an appointment as a UC Presidents' Postdoctoral Scholar in the Department of Mathematics at UC Santa Barbara. He was also selected as a 2007 Project NExT Fellow. Dr. Wilson has been a visiting professor at Georgetown University and Pomona College. He serves as a co-director of the NSF Bolstering the Advancement of Masters in Mathematics (BAMM!) Program, and the co-director of the California Math Project at Cal Poly Pomona, a program that supports the professional development of K–12 teachers. Dr. Wilson currently serves on the board of the National Association of Mathematicians and the Human Resources Committee of the American Institute of Mathematics. He has served on the Diversity Committee at the Park City Math Institute, and the Human Resources Advisory Committee at the Math Sciences Research Institute. His current research interests include both low-dimensional topology and mathematics education.