

Sylvia Bozeman Receives AAAS Mentor Award

At its annual meeting, the American Association for the Advancement of Science honored Sylvia Bozeman of Spelman College. Bozeman received the 2008 AAAS Mentor Award “for her commitment toward increasing the number of African American women with doctoral degrees in mathematics.”

Bozeman, who earned her PhD at Emory University and has been at Spelman College since 1974, is named by many students as their inspiration and mentor. Since Bozeman became chair of the mathematics department at Spelman, some twenty students have completed their PhDs there. At least half of them have said that they owe their success to Bozeman’s mentoring and encouragement as they worked on their doctorates. She is also one of the creators of the EDGE (Encouraging Diversity in Graduate Education) program, which was launched in 1998 by Spelman and Bryn Mawr with the goal of encouraging and enabling women to complete their graduate education in mathematics. (See our December 2008 issue, page 14).

Bozeman has received many honors, including a Distinguished Teaching Award from the Southeastern Section of the MAA. In 1997, she became the first African-

American to be elected Governor of a Section. She has had an active role in many MAA projects, including, for example, the *MAA Guidelines for Programs and Departments in the Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences*. Her biography can be found online at the SUMMA archive, http://www.maa.org/summa/archive/s_bozema.htm, and at the *Mathematicians of the African Diaspora* web site at http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/bozeman_sylvia.html.



The AAAS Mentor Award was established in 1996. It recognizes “individuals who have... mentored significant numbers of under-represented students towards a PhD in the sciences.” The award includes a monetary prize and a commemorative plaque. It is presented every year at the AAAS Annual Meeting. 🍷

Maria Gordina Wins 2009 Michler Prize

The Association for Women in Mathematics has announced that the winner of the third annual Ruth I. Michler Memorial Prize is Maria Gordina of the University of Connecticut. The prize includes a residential fellowship in the Cornell University mathematics department without any teaching obligations.

Gordina was educated at Leningrad State University and at Cornell. After spending some time at McMaster University and at the University of California in San Diego, she went to the University of Connecticut, where she is now Associate Professor. Her interests involve heat kernel measures and their properties, in the context of infinite-dimensional non-linear spaces. At Cornell, Gordina “plans to collaborate with Leonard Gross (Cornell), Laurent Saloff-Coste (Cornell) and S. Rajeev (Rochester) on problems connecting infinite-dimensional Lie groups, Lie algebras and Laplacians in

infinite dimensions with applications in quantum field theory and hydrodynamics.”

The Michler Prize was established by Gerhard and Waltraud Michler of Essen, Germany, in memory of their daughter Ruth, who was killed on November 1, 2000 at the age of 33 in a tragic accident.



Because Ruth Michler was deeply committed to its mission of supporting women mathematicians, they chose AWM to administer the prize, which provides mid-career women mathematicians an opportunity to spend a year at Cornell, chosen as the host institution because of its distinctive research atmosphere and because Ithaca was Ruth’s birthplace. 🍷