

# Association for Women in Mathematics

## 2003 ELECTION

### CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

November/December 2003

This year, we are electing a President-Elect, Treasurer, and two Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee. The positions of Member-at-Large are contested, so we encourage you to vote. Statements and biographical data provided by the candidates follow. Those elected will take office on February 1, 2004.

You should find a ballot between pages 10 and 11 of the November/December *Newsletter*. Also, family members who do not receive the Newsletter will receive a ballot by a separate mailing. Institutional, affiliate, and corporate memberships do not carry voting privileges. Please note that a validating signature is required on the envelope; if the signature does not appear, your votes will not be counted. Ballots must be received by **December 15, 2003**.

If you do not receive a ballot or you spoil your ballot, a replacement to mail in may be found at [www.awm-math.org](http://www.awm-math.org), or you may contact Dawn Wheeler at [awm@math.umd.edu](mailto:awm@math.umd.edu) or 301-405-7892. However, the deadline for receipt of ballots will not be extended to accommodate these special cases.

#### **PRESIDENT-ELECT**

##### **Barbara Lee Keyfitz, University of Houston**

Will we always need an Association for Women in Mathematics? Yes, we will. AWM was started at a time when this presidential candidate was just beginning her career. The term “two-body problem” had not yet been invented, there were few women faculty in science departments and even fewer in engineering (where I worked for nine years after getting my Ph.D. degree).

The professional outlook for women has changed greatly. This year’s headline announcing the new elections to membership in the National Academy of Science was “record number of women elected”—a comment which draws two responses. First, women are achieving recognition in greater numbers; second, it’s still news.

Organizations like AWM have helped women to better their careers in tangible and intangible ways: by providing lecture opportunities and prizes, by professional development sessions, through mentoring and leadership roles. But, even when acclaim for the achievements of women mathematicians and scientists has become routine, the AWM will still be a place where women can enjoy meeting and working with other women.

I feel honored to have been nominated to be president of AWM. I look forward to working with the officers and staff of the organization to expand the presence of AWM in AMS, MAA and SIAM activities, to continue the excellent traditions of the Newsletter, and to develop new mentoring and leadership opportunities for women researchers, teachers, and scholars.

Biographical Sketch: Barbara Keyfitz received her undergraduate education at the University of Toronto and her M.S. and Ph.D. from NYU's Courant Institute. She is now John and Rebecca Moores Professor of Mathematics at the University of Houston. Her research area is Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and serves on the editorial boards of the *SIAM Journal of Applied Mathematics* and *Mathematical Methods in the Applied Sciences*. She has just completed a term on the Scientific Advisory Panel of the Fields Institute in Canada. Before joining the faculty at the University of Houston in 1983, she was a faculty member in engineering at Columbia and Princeton and in mathematics at Arizona State University. She has also held visiting positions at the University of Nice, at Duke University, at Berkeley, at the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications in Minneapolis, at the Fields Institute, and at Brown University. She is Vice President for Programs for the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and a member of the Steering Committee for Section A of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## **TREASURER**

### **Rebecca Herb, University of Maryland**

I received my Ph.D. from the University of Washington, Seattle, in 1974, and have been on the faculty of the University of Maryland, College Park, since 1977. My main area of research is representation theory and harmonic analysis of real and p-adic reductive groups.

I have served the AWM in the past on the Executive Committee, the Travel Grants Selection Committee, and the Sonia Kovalevsky Days Grant Selection Committee. I am currently an organizer of the AWM leadership workshop for women which will be held in March, 2004. I have also served on the Council of the American Mathematical Society and the Editorial Board of the *Proceedings of the AMS*.

The main tasks of the treasurer are formulating yearly budgets, oversight of grants, and keeping full and accurate records of the financial affairs of the Association. I look forward to working with the officers, executive committee, and staff of the AWM in carrying out these duties.

## **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

### **Krystyna Kuperberg, Auburn University**

I highly respect and admire AWM's commitment to all forms of activities designed to attract young women to mathematics, inspire their interest, and encourage them to aim as high as their talent and imagination allows. Girls can compete in mathematics with boys, on the same level, on every level—they only need confidence and support. Encouragement can come in various forms: praise, competition, an interesting problem or a lecture, and even criticism, as long as it does not discriminate.

In the age when mathematics as a field experiences inadequate funding and lacks popularity, the work of AWM is very important. The organization not only sets an example of how to reach out to the next generation, but targets a large group of the society with an enormous underutilized potential.

AWM is dedicated to excellence and high mathematical standards. The opportunity to run for an office of AWM is an honor.

### **Maxine L. Rockoff, New York Academy of Medicine**

I was a member of the AWM in its early years, then dropped out as my career moved away from mathematics. I rejoined in 1999, when then-president Jean Taylor asked me to review the information systems that supported the AWM and its office at the University of Maryland. I subsequently had an opportunity to meet a large number of the AWM's current membership when I facilitated a set of planning sessions at an annual AWM meeting in New Orleans in 2001. I was quite struck by the vibrancy of the organization and the extent of its programs for encouraging and assisting women mathematicians. I would be pleased to be of further service if elected as a Member-at-Large. My contributions would come from outside the field, but could help with the managerial and fund-raising aspects of AWM's operations.

My career started as a programmer at the University of Pennsylvania, where I subsequently earned my Ph.D. in mathematics in 1964 with a thesis in numerical analysis that came out of a physiological problem on which I was working. I was a mathematical modeler of physiological systems at Yale and then Washington University from 1965 through 1971. I joined the Federal government in 1971 in the National Center for Health Services Research, where I developed a program in which technology was used to improve the delivery of health services; it included an early set of telemedicine projects. I was very active in SIAM during that period, having been a member of the SIAM Council from 1974 to 1976, chaired the SIAM Education Committee from 1976 to 1978, and served on the Board of Directors from 1976-1978, chairing it the last year. I joined Merrill Lynch in 1980, applying many of the technological notions developed for health care to the brokerage industry (there really are parallels between the activities of brokers who advise clients and doctors who advise patients). I consulted on organizational implementations of technology, especially telecommunications and computers in support of cooperative work, from 1985 to the present, with occasional shifts into W-2 jobs to accomplish some specific objective. For examples, I worked as Senior Administrator for the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology and Government, I initiated and managed a program to "wire up" settlement houses (social services agencies in inner cities), and now I am Director of the Division of Information Management at the New York Academy of Medicine, charged with steering a magnificent medical library into a world in which information management has been transformed by technology. I am also appointed as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Columbia University.

## **Elaine A. Terry, Saint Joseph's University**

I am honored to have been nominated for Member-at-Large of the Association for Women in Mathematics. I am an assistant professor of mathematics at Saint Joseph's.

The AWM works to ensure that opportunities in the mathematical sciences are made available to girls and women. In particular the AWM promotes the research and professional efforts of women mathematicians. Through the Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Days (SKHSMD) the AWM works to ensure that young women are exposed to opportunities in the mathematical sciences. With research today showing that high school women of various backgrounds tend to outscore their male counterparts it is important that the Association continue with SKHSMD. As a Member-at-Large I will: (i) help promote the mathematical sciences as a viable option for women and girls; (ii) use my ties with other professional organizations to increase the Association's membership of underrepresented women; and (iii) support the Association's efforts to expand research opportunities to underrepresented women. I believe that my four years experience as SKHSMD coordinator together with my commitment to teaching and learning mathematics places me in a position to serve the AWM. I would be honored to ensure the aims of the AWM as a Member-at-Large.

## **Ann Trenk, Wellesley College**

I have been a member of AWM since I was a graduate student and would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee. My undergraduate and graduate degrees come from departments whose faculty were all men, and I appreciated AWM's showcasing the accomplishments of women. In the 15 years that I've been attending mathematics conferences, I've seen a dramatic increase in the number of women attendees and speakers. I am fortunate to teach at an institution where women are not hindered by the perception that some fields are dominated by men. I look forward to a time when all students and faculty members feel welcome to the field of mathematics.

In recent years I have taken on leadership positions as Chair of my department, Local Arrangements Chair and Program Committee member for the MAA Northeastern Section's Fall meeting and as Program Director for the Discrete Mathematics Activity Group of SIAM. I have spent sabbaticals at the Center for Discrete Math and Computer Science (DIMACS) at Rutgers University and the School of Operations Research and Industrial Engineering (ORIE) at Cornell and spent time in the summers teaching in programs for talented high school students and programs for elementary and middle school teachers. I've enjoyed and learned a great deal from these positions and hope my experience will enable me to contribute to the leadership of AWM.

*Biographical Information:* Ann Trenk was an undergraduate mathematics major at Harvard University. Before attending graduate school, she taught high school mathematics at Middlesex School. Her Ph.D. is in Mathematical Sciences from Johns Hopkins University in 1991. She then spent a year as a postdoctoral fellow at Dartmouth College before starting her current faculty position at Wellesley College.

Ann is now an Associate Professor and Chair of the Mathematics Department at Wellesley College. Her research is in Graph Theory and Ordered Sets and her book *Tolerance Graphs* (coauthored with Martin C. Golumbic) will be published this fall.