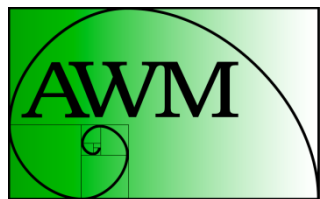


October 10, 2018

ASSOCIATION FOR  
WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

## AWM Honors Suzanne Weekes with Humphreys Award for Mentoring

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) is pleased to present the ninth annual M. Gweneth Humphreys Award to Suzanne Weekes, Professor of Mathematics in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). Weekes is a prominent applied mathematician at WPI whose research areas are dynamic materials, numerical methods, and computational fluid dynamics.

Weekes has served on the WPI faculty since 1998, where she has supervised many individual undergraduate and graduate research projects, as well as developed or led initiatives to bring students into research. Weekes was invited to serve as Director of the WPI Center for Industrial Mathematics and Statistics and was a Director of the WPI REU Program in Industrial Mathematics and Statistics, the first REU program that specifically focuses mathematics students' summers on working on research problems that come directly from industry. Weekes is also a founding co-director of the deeply impactful MSRI-UP program, devoted to "cultivating heretofore untapped mathematical talent" with a focus on communities traditionally underrepresented in mathematics. During her tenure at MSRI-UP, over 85 women, including more than 70 women from underrepresented groups, have participated and have been mentored through the program, with the majority continuing to graduate programs after college.

Weekes' current and former students had a range of moving tributes to offer: "Being randomly assigned to Professor Weekes as my academic adviser was most likely the best thing that could have ever happened to me here at WPI. Through



her guidance and encouragement, I have discovered SIAM, traveled to my first mathematics conference, received a research grant, and will be presenting said research on an international scale. Because of her enthusiasm and belief in me, she has helped me achieve things I never thought were imaginable during my undergraduate career."

One student who writes of her struggles with self-doubt continues, "Although I had support and encouragement from various professors, none quite gave me the confidence and honest feedback like Prof. Weekes." Another student, musing on the importance of role models, notes: "I didn't even know that it mattered that I had no female mentors, until I really knew Suzy." Finally, one student put it simply and powerfully: "*Prof. Weekes was our champion.*"

Suzanne Weekes exemplifies the tradition of Gweneth Humphreys, and the AWM is proud to pay tribute to her exceptional track record of support, guidance, unvarnished feedback, and inspiration.

This award is named for M. Gweneth Humphreys (1911–2006). Professor Humphreys earned her master's degree from Smith College and her PhD at age 23 from the University of Chicago in 1935. She taught mathematics to women for her entire career, at Mount St. Scholastica College, Sophie Newcomb College, and finally for over thirty years at Randolph-Macon Woman's College. This award, funded by contributions from her former students and colleagues at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, recognizes her commitment to and her profound influence on undergraduate students of mathematics.

*The 2019 Joint Mathematics Meetings will be held January 16-19 in Baltimore, MD. For further information on the Hay Award, including past winners, please visit [www.awm-math.org](http://www.awm-math.org).*

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