

William K. Schwarze Scholarship in Mathematics

Presented by – Dean Winston Ko and Chair Joel Hass

William Karl Schwarze was born in 1942 in San Francisco. He excelled in math in high school and received his bachelor's degree in Math at UC Davis and went on to graduate school at Berkeley before starting his career as a math teacher in San Francisco. Bill accumulated substantial wealth in the Bay Area real estate market. Since his death in 1988, this wealth has been held in trust by the SF Foundation and is used for various humanitarian purposes and college scholarships, in particular for the Schwarze Scholarship presented today. This award is given to graduate students in Mathematics who have demonstrated outstanding mathematical scholarship and exceptional promise of making a strong professional contribution as a mathematics teacher and educator at the pre-college or college level.

Recipient – Tim Wertz

Alice Leung Scholarship in Mathematics

Presented – Dean Winston Ko and Chair Joel Hass

Alice Siu-Fun Leung received a Masters in Mathematics in 1975 from UC Davis. She spoke very highly of her experience at UC Davis; she missed the campus and the area and would have liked to return to visit, but for her work as a global property management accountant in Hong Kong. She enjoyed gardening and working as a volunteer helping animals.

In her will, Ms. Leung generously provided an endowment to award scholarships annually to graduate students in Mathematics. This award is given to students who have shown exceptional promise in all aspects of mathematics, including research, scholarship and teaching.

Recipient – Charlie Brummitt

G. Thomas Sallee Mathematics Teaching Award

Presented by – Dean Winston Ko and Chair Joel Hass

Once known as the award for Outstanding Teacher of Lower Division Mathematics, this honor was renamed the G. Thomas Sallee Mathematics Teaching Award in recognition of Professor Emeritus Tom Sallee's 40-year career with the Department, his dedication to being an excellent teacher, and his life goal of developing and supporting talented mathematics teachers.

An endowment was established which would allow the Department to continue to recognize the best teaching of lower-division mathematics courses on an annual basis.

Recipient – Amitabh Basu

Henry L. Alder Award

Presented by – Dean Winston Ko and Chair Joel Hass

Professor Henry L. Alder received his Ph.D. from Berkeley in 1947. After a year as faculty in the Department of Mathematics at UC Berkeley, he joined the Davis faculty as an Instructor of Mathematics. He advanced to the rank of Professor in 1965, and officially retired in 1992. He then served as Department Chair from 1992 to 1994. After his retirement, Prof. Alder continued to teach in the Department for many years.

Professor Alder was active in campus programs and was a strong advocate for quality teaching. In 1999, Prof. Alder established an endowment known as The Henry L. Alder Graduate Fellowship in Mathematics. The Fund provides support to mathematics graduate students at UC Davis through the Henry L. Alder Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This prize is given each year to the graduate student who is deemed to be the top teacher among all graduate students in mathematics.

Recipient – Joohee Hong

Yueh-Jing Lin Scholarship in Mathematics

Presented by – Dean Winston Ko and Chair Joel Hass

Yueh-Jing (Jean) Lin and Chau-Hsiung (Mike) Chuang created the Yueh-Jing Lin Fund in 2009. This endowment provides scholarship support to one or more mathematics students each year. The scholarships are available to high-achieving mathematics students, either undergraduate or graduate. Mr. and Mrs. Chuang are alumni of UC Davis who met while they were graduate students on campus. Jean received her Master's degree in mathematics in 1971, and Mike received his master's degree in agricultural education in 1969.

Recipient – Melody Molander



G. Thomas Sallee Mathematics Prize

Presented by – Chair Joel Hass

This award is also given in recognition of Professor Emeritus Tom Sallee, and again reaffirms his life goal of developing and supporting talented individuals in mathematics. All undergraduate students enrolled at UC Davis are eligible to receive this prize, and winners are determined after having completed an exam designed by the Department's Mathematics Contest Committee.

Recipient – Kyumin Kim

Evelyn M. Silvia Scholarship for Future Mathematics Teachers

Presented by – Chair Joel Hass

Evelyn was hired by the Department in 1973, following receipt of her Ph.D. from Clark University. During her career at UC Davis, she served as a role model for female faculty. She was very generous with her time, whether it was as a committee member or advising students.

This scholarship honors Professor Silvia's memory by recognizing and supporting students aspiring to be future mathematics teachers. The focus of Evelyn's passion and unwavering commitment was to develop talented mathematics teachers at the K-12 grade level. The scholarship recognizes a junior or senior with a major in mathematics, applied mathematics or statistics who has shown an interest in teaching mathematics.

Recipient – Lea Riedel

Robert Lewis Wasser Memorial Scholarship

Presented by – Chair Joel Hass

Robert Lewis Wasser was born in 1973 in Sacramento. He excelled in all that he did and was selected as a National Merit Scholar in 1991, and a participant in the Academic Decathlon. Robert began at UC Davis in 1991. His achievements are numerous and impressive. He was one of few who took as a sophomore some of our most challenging courses such as Math 127. His instructor, Professor Don Chakerian, said how much he was inspired by the discussions he had with Robert and that Robert's presence made the whole class so much more lively and spirited. After his tragic death in an automobile accident in 1993, just prior to his Junior year, his grandmother, Vera May Wasser, initiated the Robert Lewis Wasser Endowment in his memory with contributions from his family and friends. Its goal is to benefit promising mathematics students at UC Davis.

Recipient – Ruian Chen

Eric C. Ruliffson Scholarship in Mathematics

Presented by – Chair Joel Hass

Eric Canady Ruliffson attended UC Davis from 1964-1968, loved the study of math and excelled in it. He was first and foremost a problem solver, which helped him to achieve life-long personal and professional success. While attending UC Davis, Eric worked as a summer intern in the actuarial department of Pacific Mutual Insurance in Los Angeles, and was hired by them upon graduation. After serving in the Navy, Eric attended graduate school in demography at UC Berkeley. In 1973 he resumed his actuarial career at Pacific Mutual Insurance and continued as a benefits consultant in the San Francisco office of Coopers and Lybrand. He became a partner with the firm and achieved the status of Fellow in the Society of Actuaries. He was also elected to the Board of Partners for Coopers and Lybrand, the first actuary to be so honored, and served on the Board of Partners for PricewaterhouseCoopers, the world's largest consulting firm.

Recipient – Chun Yu Hong

Departmental Honors Awards

Presented by – Chair Joel Hass

Every year, undergraduate students have the opportunity to participate in mathematical research, culminating in a senior thesis. Students typically work under the guidance of a faculty mentor to complete original research. The results are reviewed, and pending on the quality and substance, the student can receive Departmental high or highest honors.

Recipients of Highest Honors – Mincheng Zhou
and Virgil Chan

The Galois Group Award

Presented by – Tim Wertz

The Galois Group is “the official voice of the graduate students in Mathematics.” All graduate students in the Mathematics department are members of Galois, and it is how graduate students in mathematics collectively communicate with the department faculty and staff. The group also coordinates and facilitates various activities, such as Monthly Game Nights and New Student Welcomes. Every year, the Galois Group presents an award to recognize outstanding service and/or sustained commitment to the graduate group.

Recipient – Perry Gee

Departmental Citation Awards

Presented by – Chair Joel Hass

These citations recognize undergraduate students of exceptional ability who have taken a very strong selection of mathematics courses and distinguished themselves with exceptionally high grade point averages. In addition, they have all received strong recommendations from the faculty.

Recipients – Mincheng Zhou, Brian Busemeyer,
Aaron Higgins, Kaitlyn Kortright, Devin Platt,
Natalie Telis, Ran Xie

The Department of Mathematics would like to thank the following groups and individuals for their support and contributions to this year's ceremony:

Benne Alder
Larry & Janice Alder
Berni & Esther Alder
Charles Alder
& Dolores Miller
Rex & Mary Allen
Anthony Barcellos
Cheryl & Scott Beaver
Michael & Cheryl Booth
Cynthia Brantley
Lauren Breon & David Hall
Christopher Broski
Sean Buggy
Don & Dolores Chakerian
Mike & Jean Chuang
Doyle Cutler
Jim & Paula Diederich
Danial & Joy Faletti
Guy Gray
Gary Gruenhage
Fields & Carol Gunsett
Robert Guy
Allen Hall
Debra & Stephen Hill
Carole Hom & Neil Willits
Robert Jaffa
Elaine Kasimatis
Arthur & Jeanne Krener
Jack Latimer
Lawrence Marx

Marion McCurdy
& Sidney Wong
Sayuri & Motohico Mulase
Brandon Muranaka
Sandra Ruliffson
Erica Ruliffson
& Bryan Schultz
Tom & Joan Saltee
Sai Shao
Jennifer Sharples
Abigail Thompson
& Joel Hass
John & Ngangiang Thoo
Curtis Travis, Jr.
Jessica Utts
& Wesley Johnson
Vera May Wasser
Earl Wong
Richard & Sharon Zeches

2011-12 Math Contest Committee
- Greg Kuperberg
- Fu Liu
- Benjamin Morris

2011-12 Awards Committee
- Dmitry Fuchs
- Dan Romik
- Alexander Soshnikov

UC DAVIS MATHEMATICS



RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

2013