UCSD visiting mathematician scholar Deborah Tepper Haimo receives distinguished service honor

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Media Contact: Warren R. Froelich, (619) 534-8564, wfroelic@ucsd.edu

UCSD MATHEMATICIAN RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE HONOR

Deborah Tepper Haimo, a visiting scholar in mathematics at the University of California, San Diego, has been named the recipient of the Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service in Mathematics, the most prestigious award offered by the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

The award, first offered in 1990, will be presented today during the association's annual meeting, being held this week in San Diego. It is the successor to the Award for Distinguished Service to Mathematics, given since 1962.

Haimo, who served as president of the MAA in 1992, is being honored for her many years of distinguished accomplishment to mathematics and mathematics education.

Her citation, in part, reads: "Professor Haimo has gone beyond the normal presidential service by her reorganization of the cumbersome MAA committee structure, by her personal devotion to obtaining the recognition of outstanding teaching in each MAA Section of the country, by creating the national awards bearing the name of her late husband and herself, and by encouraging the participation of women in mathematics at every level and in the Association. These are tremendously valuable achievements, worthy of the Gung-Hu Award."

The Gung-Hu award is named for Dr. Charles Y. Hu, a retired geology professor at the University of Maryland who died last year, and his wife, Yueh-Gin Gung.

"Dr. Hu has left an indelible imprint in his deep and inspiring appreciation of mathematics, and in the wonderfully generous award he made possible," said Haimo. "He had such strong feelings about the basic nature of mathematics and its importance to all human endeavors."

For much of her career, Haimo has been conducting research into the heat equations discovered more than 100 years ago by French mathematician Joseph Fourier. She has worked with certain theories that offer solutions to these equations that have implications for processes of birth and death; some of this work can be applied to population studies. She has published more than 45 papers on this subject and has served as an associate editor of the SIAM Journal on Mathematical Analysis and the American Mathematical Monthly.

To help encourage mathematics and mathematics teaching in this country and elsewhere, Haimo has served on numerous national and international panels and committees. She was a member of the Educational Testing Service College Level Examination Program; the Advanced Placement Calculus Committee with The College Board; the National Advisory Board on Assessment, Connecticut Board of Education; and the Board of Advisors of the Coalition for Missouri Mathematics. She also served as mathematician on two science teams appointed by the Agency for International Development to study science graduate programs at Seoul National University and was a member of the University Mathematics Education Delegation to the People's Republic of China.

Since arriving in California in 1995, Haimo has served as a member of the California Department of Education Program Advisory Committee and was recently appointed to the California Mathematics Curriculum Framework and Criteria Committee.

As a woman mathematician, Haimo not only has been a role model for female students, she has written and spoken about the need to give young women the opportunity to study mathematics to the limit of their abilities and interests.

Haimo received her undergraduate degree in mathematics from Radcliffe College in 1943, graduating magna cum laude. She went on to earn a Ph.D. in 1964 in classical analysis at Harvard University, and later received an honorary degree of Doctor of Science from Franklin and Marshall College. Following faculty appointments at Washington University in St. Louis and Southern Illinois University, Haimo joined the faculty of the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1968 where she served as chair of the mathematics department for several years; in 1992, she was appointed professor emerita at that university. During her academic career, she also held visiting appointments at Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, and at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. In 1995, Haimo joined the mathematics department at UCSD as a visiting scholar.

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