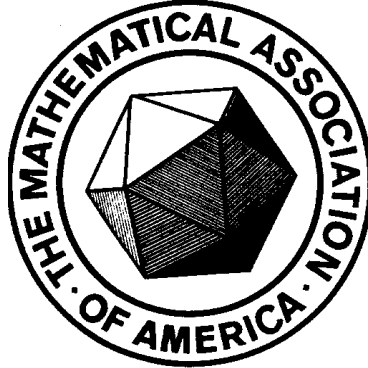


The Mathematical Association of America New Jersey Section



Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics

Saturday, October 26, 2019

Essex County College

Newark, NJ

Dr. Susan Marshall

The New Jersey Section of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to present its 2019 sectional award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to Dr. Susan Marshall of Monmouth University.



Dr. Susan Marshall has been a faculty member at Monmouth University since 2004. She teaches both general education courses and courses for mathematics majors, where a significant portion of her audience is pre-service mathematics teachers. Students point to her passion for mathematics and her strong support of her students that has made her a role model for the undergraduates who are enrolled in her classes. Colleagues express their respect for Dr. Marshall's commitment to teaching and to incorporating innovative pedagogy in her courses.

Dr. Marshall's former students have written of the student-centered way that she conducts her mathematics courses:

"Dr. Marshall was also a wonderful example of positive student-teacher interaction and respect. Our conversations were always handled with kindness and acceptance, while she challenged me to fully engage in understanding new concepts versus just learning how to solve a problem."

"Marshall is by far one of the best professors that I have had. She encourages her students to engage in productive struggle, supports them as they work to grasp intricate concepts and proofs, and promotes a deeper understanding of material that simply would not be achieved without her dedication and excellence as a professor."

Dr. Marshall has redeveloped the department's History of Mathematics course in order to make it an important part of the program for pre-service mathematics teachers. A former student in this class writes that

"Each chapter of our text covered an important topic in math history. Dr. Marshall divvied up the chapters amongst the students and every class a different student would teach their chapter. This provided us a great opportunity to do further research beyond just our textbook's information and become "experts" on our assigned topic. As a result, the class became more hands-on and project oriented... A number of my classmates, including myself, were education majors and this student-led classroom format allowed us to hone skills such as lesson planning, public speaking, and mediating classroom activities."

Colleagues point to Dr. Marshall's skill in conducting her classes using a Socratic method, in which students are actively involved in discussion and group work to develop their mathematical understanding. Dr. Marshall creates a supportive environment in which her students are comfortable taking risks and engaging in struggle in order to solve problems.

In addition to her own teaching responsibilities, Dr. Marshall has made significant contributions to student learning at Monmouth University. She served for twelve years as "course champion" for the Mathematics Department's main mathematics course for

business majors, and has acted as the department's outcomes assessment coordinator.

During her time at Monmouth, Dr. Marshall has supervised six honors theses, one of which received the university's award for the thesis. Providing such individual experiences require a large time commitment for the faculty member, however they are extremely valuable for the undergraduate student.

Dr. Marshall has received national recognition from the Mathematical Association of America for two outstanding expository articles she has published in MAA journals – she is a recipient of the 2014 Carl B. Allendoerfer Award and 2016 Chauvenet Prize as the co-author of an article in Mathematics Magazine. In addition, she received the Paul R. Halmos-Lester R. Ford Award in 2014 for an expository article she published in the American Mathematical Monthly.

Dr. Marshall was an R. L. Moore Project NExT fellow 2004-2005, and has taken over as NJ-NExT Director for the next cohort of fellows for our New Jersey Section. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated teacher to organize the professional development program for new faculty members in the Section.

Professor Thomas Hagedorn of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, The College of New Jersey, nominated Dr. Susan Marshall for this Distinguished Teaching Award.

Response from Professor Marshall

I'm honored to receive this award and I would like to thank the selection committee for their time and the MAA-NJ Section for all they do to support, encourage, and celebrate teaching mathematics at the undergraduate level. I'm grateful to work in a department which values teaching so strongly and provides an atmosphere where discussion about teaching flourishes and innovation is encouraged. I would especially like to thank my colleagues and my students who took the time to support my nomination.

My own undergraduate mathematics professors, especially John Baxley and Steve Robinson, heavily influenced my decision to become a mathematician and I was lucky as both a graduate student and a postdoc to find mentors that were as committed to teaching as they were to mathematical research. I'm especially grateful to Mike Starbird, who first introduced me to using inquiry-based learning in the classroom and continues to inspire how I teach on a daily basis.

While I enjoy the many aspects of my career, the moments in the classroom and in my office with my students are my favorite moments of the day. Even so, teaching is a daily challenge to improve the process of helping students learn and grow. Winning this award inspires me to continue to strive to always do better and to earn my spot among the past award winners, especially my colleague and mentor, Bonnie Gold, who has been a major

influence in my career.

Finally, I'd like to thank my husband and colleague, David Marshall, for so often providing a sounding board on what worked or didn't work in class that day, for sharing new ideas big and small, and for being an example of the kind of teacher I want to be.

RECIPIENTS OF MAA-NJ DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Sr. M. Stephanie Sloyan, Georgian Court College	1992
Eileen Polani, St. Peter's College	1993
Richard Bronson, Fairleigh Dickinson University	1994
Siegfried Haenisch, The College of New Jersey	1995
Andrew Demetropoulos, Montclair State University	1996
Roger Pinkham, Stevens Institute of Technology	1997
Virginia Lee, Brookdale Community College	1998
Amy Cohen, Rutgers University-New Brunswick	1999
Janet H. Caldwell, Rowan University	2000
Evan Maletsky, Montclair State University	2002
Stephen J. Greenfield, Rutgers University–New Brunswick	2003
Arthur Schwartz, Mercer County Community College	2004
Bonnie Gold, Monmouth University	2006
Bruce G. Bukiet, New Jersey Institute of Technology	2008
Thomas Osler, Rowan University	2009
Robert L. Wilson, Rutgers University	2010
Brian P. Hopkins, Saint Peter's College	2011
Diana M. Thomas, Montclair State University	2012
Sarita Nemani, Georgian Court University	2013
Karen Clark, The College of New Jersey	2014
Denis Blackmore, New Jersey Institute of Technology	2015
Jana Gevertz, The College of New Jersey	2016
Cynthia Curtis, The College of New Jersey	2017
Robert Pruhak, Rutgers University–Newark	2018

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