

Sylvia Wiegand

1. As for the readings:

As a suggestion for other reading, I suggest copies of the AWM newsletter. There is material in the Complexities book from the newsletter and also in the Article AWM in the 90s, written by Jean Taylor and myself and published in the AMS Notices.

The articles that interest me the most relate to the climate, such as the reports of women faculty at MIT, Harvard and Princeton.

I'm also interested in family issues, and I organized a panel on mathematicians and families for the AWM, which is reported in the President's Column of the March/April AWM newsletter.

I have the Complexities book and I could be responsible for some items in that.

2. For a "brief bio", I enclose parts of my vita. Maybe you'd like it briefer than this; just let me know what kinds of things you'd like included. Thanks!

3. Expectations from the workshop:

It will be a chance for me to describe what has worked here at Nebraska to encourage women to pursue and succeed in graduate study in mathematics; we (all participants) will share our perceptions on the situation for women in mathematics and what problems still exist, we will make new friends and contacts. Perhaps we will plan some specific events or articles from the experience.

Sara Faridi

I finished my undergraduate degree in Iran, and then moved to the US in 1994 to start working on my PhD. I was at Brandeis University for a few years, and during this period I started working with Karen Smith who was at MIT at the time. After Karen Smith moved to Michigan, I transferred there and received a PhD from University of Michigan in 2000. I taught in George Washington University (in Washington DC) for two years, another year at the University of Ottawa, and did two years of postdoc at University of Quebec in Montreal. My husband (who is also a mathematician) and I finally solved our two-body problem in 2005 by moving to Halifax, where we both teach at Dalhousie University.

In the workshop, I would like to learn more about common issues, and share experiences with fellow women in mathematics. Such an event helps put many of our encounters as women in the mathematical community into perspective.

Sylvie Hamel

After doing my master degree in Algebraic Combinatorics at University of Quebec in Montreal I was accepted at MIT for my PhD degree. I was there for a year, working under the supervision of Richard Stanley when I became pregnant of my son. It was an unexpected event and since my boyfriend was working in Montreal and could not come to Boston, I decided to return to Montreal and finish my Ph.D. over there. At the beginning of my Ph.D. back in Montreal I met some people working in bioinformatics and became quite interested by this area. So, I had my son in February 1999 and finish my Ph.D. in 2002 in mathematic option theoretical computer science. My Ph.D. thesis was about a really fast parallel algorithm to find approximate matches of a word in a big text. All of my Ph.D. was founded by NSERC and FQRNT.

After that, I got an NSERC postdoctoral scholarship and decide to go work with Denis Thérien, at McGill, in theoretical computer science. After a year at McGill, I applied to an UFA position at University of Montreal which I got. So, since August 2003, I'm an assistant professor, working in bioinformatics, at the Department of Computer Science and Operations Research at University of Montreal. My son is now 7 years old.

Interest in the workshop:

I went to the Summer Program for Women in Mathematics in Washington DC 2 imes already. Once as a TA and once as a professor. I really liked the opportunity to work and discuss with the girls about there school, there feelings (some of them where the only female student in math in there school), etc. Now, I'm one of the 4/40 female professors in the computer science department and I teach groups of students with a big majority of guys. (at most 5 women in a group of 60 students). I would love to be able to make the department more accessible for girls and find ways to interest more of them to come and work with us.

Ping Zhou

I would like to discuss the article "Working Part Time After Tenure" by Sharon Lobel, on "Academe" under the "Balancing Faculty Career and Family work", which can be found at www.aaup.org/publications/Academe/2004/04ndlobe.htm

My brief bio: Ping Zhou, born in Chongqing, China, in 1962. Obtained my first undergraduate degree in Math Teaching in 1981 from Chongqing Teachers College. Was teaching in a high school and then a college in China from 1981 to 1992. Obtained BSc. in Math in 1990 from Sichuan Normal University. Went to South Africa in 1992, obtained MSc. in 1994 and PhD. in 1996 from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. Came to Canada in 1996 as a landed immigrant and was a NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow at Simon Fraser University from 1997 to 2000, then a NSERC UFA at St. Francis University (StFX) from 2000 to 2005. Now an Associate Professor at StFX. Research interests are in Analysis and Number Theory. Married in 1985 and had first child (Diana) in 1986 and second one (Annette) in 1999. My husband (George) is now running a Chinese restaurant in town of Antigonish where StFX is located.

This will be the first time for me to attend this kind of workshop. I believe that I will learn a lot from others. As a new member of the CMS Woman in Math Committee, I need to know more woman mathematicians and learn more on how I can work together with others to make our community stronger and better.

Karen Meagher

I completed my Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa in September of 2005. Currently I have an NSERC post-doctorate fellowship at the University of Waterloo. This summer I have been on maternity leave (my daughter was born in the spring). In July 2007 I will be moving to Regina where I will be starting as an assistant professor at the University of Regina.

I have found that the position of women in math has improved dramatically between the time that I started university in 1991 and now. I credit this change to the hard work of women mathematicians and "women in math" initiatives. I think it is important for younger women who have benefited from from this work to continue to try to make academic life more accessible to all.

As part of this conference I hope we can identify which initiatives have been working and what new problems young women in math have. I would also like eventually see the successful initiatives for women in math be extended to include other minority groups. Another thing I hope to achieve at this conference is to explain the position of younger researchers who have not faced alot of opposition as women in math.

Carol Wood

Actual reply to what was asked:

ACTION 1: Please respond with your preferences on the suggested readings.

I think the university studies are informative, at least the ones I've read. Certainly in the context, Waterloo deserves attention

I have copies of Complexities and Change is Possible, which I can bring. Perhaps Complexities is the one where I might have more to contribute which is positive. Also as I mentioned, Why So Slow....depressing but somehow apt.

ACTION 2: Please send me your brief bio with a statement of your expectations from the workshop.

AB Randolph-Macon Woman's College, 1966; Ph D Yale 1971
Currently Professor of Mathematics at Wesleyan University and Trustee of AMS
Have served as President of AWM, as dept chair, as Deputy Director at MSRI,
as program officer at NSF

I hope to learn more about the Canadian situation for women, and to benefit from discussions with others' ideas and expertise about what additional steps would change/improve the climate for students interested in mathematics who do not fit the standard profile.