



## CITATION

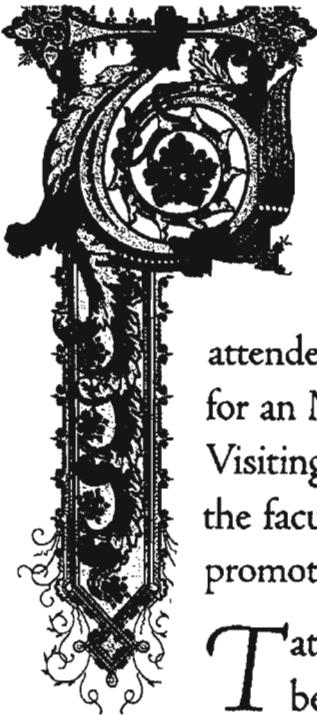
FEBRUARY 25, 2006

In keeping with the resolve of the Mathematical Association of America to take substantive action each year to honor extraordinarily successful teaching at all post-secondary levels, the Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii Section of the Association is pleased to identify

# TATIANA SHUBIN

as the recipient of its MAA Sectional

## AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY TEACHING OF MATHEMATICS



TATIANA SHUBIN obtained B.S. and M.S. degrees in mathematics in Russia. After teaching high school and working as a research mathematician in industry, she moved to the U.S. where she attended UC Santa Barbara, completed the requirements for an M.A. and took a Ph.D. in 1983. After serving as a Visiting Lecturer at UC Davis for two years, she joined the faculty at San Jose State University in 1985 and was promoted to the rank of professor in 2005.

Tatiana has made an impact at San Jose State. It has been said that she is a legend in the Mathematics





Department for her extraordinary undergraduate and graduate teaching. Student evaluations of her courses have been consistently superb since she joined the faculty, and comments that students make are awesome. Dr. Shubin is to be commended for her dedication to her students. She strives to get them to understand the concepts and provides them with incentives to improve their grades, but never compromises the rigor of the subject. Her humor is noteworthy in helping students relax and enjoy learning. She is effective both with stronger students and ones who don't catch on quickly. It is common to see her working with a group of students in her office, patiently explaining and discussing – or working in the hall outside if there are too many for the office. One student said, "She just won't give up until I get it."

Her good-natured enthusiasm and unflagging energy continually inspire her colleagues. She has provided creative and enthusiastic inspiration and leadership for keeping the curriculum effective and up to date. These same traits have made her a terrific advisor for the Math Club, building its membership and encouraging its members to attend math meetings and lectures, and to organize film programs, field trips, special events about careers and fund-raising activities.

As a teenager in Russia, Tatiana won one of the Soviet Student Olympiads and was invited to attend one of the three special high schools for gifted students that were created under the leadership of Andrei Kolmogorov. These experiences had a profound effect on her and she has always wanted to share them. Consequently, she has been instrumental in founding, obtaining funding for, and tirelessly working on three initiatives for 6-12th graders in the Bay Area: the San Jose Math Circle, the lecture program Bay Area Mathematical Adventures, and the Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad competition. Each of these programs is dedicated to identifying mathematically gifted youth, helping them develop their talent early and inspiring them to enter mathematics competitions. Evidence of the effectiveness of these programs is seen in the success of former participants in national and international mathematical competitions.

For great teachers, you hear students and colleagues tell each other one good thing after another that the teacher has said or done. You hear students tell other students that they must take a course from that teacher. Over the years there is an accumulation, a myriad of little things, that all say 'this person is a great teacher'. Tatiana Shubin is that kind of teacher.

We are proud to present this year's Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics to Tatiana Shubin.

