

The 2012 Distinguished Service Award

The recipient of the 2012 MAA-NJ Sr. Stephanie Award for Distinguished Service is **Patricia Clark Kenschaft** of Montclair State University.

Pat Kenschaft has made many outstanding contributions to the New Jersey section of the MAA. She joined the MAA shortly after joining the Montclair State faculty in 1975, but it took a few years until her parenting responsibilities permitted attending a Saturday meeting of the Section. When she did, she enjoyed it immensely, but immediately noticed that there were no women speakers and that there seemed to be very little participation in section meetings by women. She resolved to correct this, beginning by suggesting names for women speakers.

In 1981 Pat put signs around the registration area of a Section meeting announcing a meeting of the Association for Women in Mathematics during lunchtime for those who wanted to discuss women in the New Jersey Section. For many years thereafter AWM had four dinner meetings a year, two following Section meetings and one each in summer and winter in a Westfield restaurant. The latter often attracted women at all stages of life from high school to long-retired who enjoyed animated conversation together. AWM membership rapidly grew and by 1987 New Jersey's was the greatest of any non-university location. The group promoted the inclusion of women speakers at Section meetings. There was no resistance to this movement. At the fall 1992 meeting at Drew University, all the speakers were women.

In 1984 Pat became the Section Vice-Chair for Speakers, an obvious response to her concern for the choice of speakers. She continued on the Section board from 1988-92 as Vice Chair for Innovations and from 1992-94 as Vice Chair for Two Year Colleges. In 2005 she returned to the board for her three-year term as Section Governor.

From 1987 to 1993, Pat was the first chair of the Committee on Participation of Women of the national MAA. There she edited *Winning Women into Mathematics*, written by the Committee and published by the MAA. At national meetings she directed four sets of skits about micro-inequities (slights that are funny on stage but undermine women's careers) that actually happened to women mathematicians. These were followed by well-attended discussions. Meanwhile, Pat chaired the NJ Conference of the AAUP from 1987 to 1991.

From 2001 to 2004, Pat chaired the national MAA Committee on Mathematics and the Environment. From 1998 to 2004, she hosted a live weekly radio talk show "Math Medley" midday Saturdays, where she talked with 300 leaders in mathematical endeavors for an hour each. Pat has published numerous articles and books, including *Change is Possible: stories of women and minorities in mathematics*, published by the American Mathematical Society. Pat received the AWM 2006 Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio.

We appreciate and are grateful to Pat for her many years of service to the New Jersey Section of the Mathematical Association of America.