Department of **Mathematics**

2021 Awards

Tonight's Program

Welcome + Opening Remarks
Professor Jeremy Tyson
Chair, Department of Mathematics

Land-Grant Statement + College of LAS Remarks
Professor Matt Ando
Associate Dean for Life and Physical Sciences, College of LAS

Alumni Award Recognition + Remarks
Steven Armstrong (BS '92)
2020 Actuarial Science Program Alumnus of the Year

Undergraduate Awards
Professor Randy McCarthy
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Alumni Award Recognition + Remarks
Danyel Graves Larsen (BA '04)
2021 Alumni Humanitarian Award

Illinois Geometry Lab Awards
Professor Philipp Hieronymi
Director of Illinois Geometry Lab

Graduate Awards
Professor Lee DeVille
Director of Graduate Studies

Alumni Award Recognition + Remarks
Michael Stillman (BA '78)
2021 Outstanding Achievement Award

Faculty + Staff Awards
Professor Jeremy Tyson

Alumni Award Recognition + Remarks
Judy Leavitt Walker (MS '92, Ph.D. '96)
2021 Outstanding Achievement Award

Closing Remarks
Professor Jeremy Tyson

Steven Armstrong

2020 Actuarial Science Alumnus of the Year Award

Steven Armstrong of Chicago has 28 years of actuarial experience within the insurance industry. He has worked at several insurance industry leaders, including Plymouth Rock Assurance Co. in Red Bank, N.J., and QBE North America, and AIG Property and Casualty Co. in New York; however, he has spent the majority of his professional career as a member of the Allstate Insurance Co. team, where he worked from 1992 to 2012, and again from 2017 to present.

Over his 25+ years with Allstate, Armstrong has held numerous positions of increasing scope and leadership, and currently serves as vice president of pricing analytics and actuarial services. In this role, he has shared responsibility for pricing more than $20 billion in premiums and has a lead role in improving pricing sophistication through advancing actuarial methods. Notably, Armstrong was one of the first actuaries to be part of a team that brought forward a telematics, usage-based auto insurance program in the U.S., known now as Drivewise by Allstate.

Armstrong recently served as president of the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS), the premier credentialing organization of casualty actuaries in North America and around the world, where he has been a fellow since 1996. One of the youngest elected presidents, he previously served as president-elect, as a member of the CAS board, and has served and held chairmanships for numerous other CAS committees, including the leadership development committee, examination committee, and strategic planning committee. Additionally, he has been a member of several CAS task forces, including the Automotive Vehicles Task Force, Admissions Technology Task Force, Preliminary Education Task Force, and the Task Force on Educational Balance.

In addition to his years of membership with the CAS, Armstrong holds membership in the American Academy of Actuaries. He has written articles for a variety of publications, including Actuarial Review, Claims Journal, and Insurance Journal, and has spoken at numerous industry engagements, including several Joint Mathematics Meetings, and has contributed his time to his alma mater, most recently serving as a lecturer for the 2019 Distinguished Guest Lecturers in Actuarial Science on campus.

Armstrong graduated Summa Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in actuarial science from Illinois in 1992. He later completed an MBA with a concentration in marketing from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003.

H. Roy Brahana Prize
The H. Roy Brahana Prize is named for a distinguished member of our mathematics faculty and recognizes the student with "the most exceptional undergraduate mathematics career."
Presented with honor to David Brewster, a senior mathematics major.

Most Outstanding Major Awards
In 1996, the department established the Major Awards to recognize the most outstanding undergraduate students in each of the four majors offered by the department.

Most Outstanding Major Award in Actuarial Science
Presented with honor to Yuling Wu, a senior actuarial science and statistics major.

Most Outstanding Major Award in Mathematics
Presented with honor to Jinghui Yang, senior in mathematics. Jinghui is a member of Pi Mu Epsilon and MATRIX math club and enjoys playing video games, building RPG games, reading and watching animation.

Most Outstanding Major Award in Mathematics + Computer Science
Presented with honor to Guangkuo Liu, a senior double majoring in physics and mathematics and computer science. Guangkuo is education lead for Quantum@UIUC and was named a meritorious winner in the 2019 Mathematical Content in Modeling.

Most Outstanding Major Award in Teaching of Mathematics
Presented with honor to Benjamin Candee a sophomore mathematics major. Benjamin served as an instructor in the nuclear officer lab for the University of Illinois NROTC in fall 2020 and is a volunteer for Urbana-Champaign Books to Prisoners. He was named to the dean's list in both Fall 2019 and spring 2020 and enjoys running and marathon training.

Salma Wanna Memorial Award
The Salma Wanna Memorial Award honors the memory of Salma Wanna, who received her PhD from the University of Illinois in 1976. It is given for "exceptional performance in mathematics to the most outstanding continuing student."
Presented with honor to Ariel Lerman, a sophomore mathematics major. Ariel received the Elsie Thomas Fraser Award in 2020 and was recently named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar. He enjoys playing the cello, creative writing and gaming.

Elizabeth R. Bennett Scholarship in Mathematics
Established in 1972, the Elizabeth R. Bennett Scholarship in Mathematics is typically given to students at the sophomore or junior level and serves as a gateway to the department's senior awards, such as the Most Outstanding Major Award or the Brahana Prize. It is named for Elizabeth Bennett, the first woman to receive a PhD in mathematics from the University of Illinois, and the second PhD overall to be granted from the department.
Presented with honor to Yu Jun Loo, a sophomore mathematics major. Jun enjoys Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, watercolor painting, reading literature.

Actuarial Science Alumni Scholarship
Made possible through the generous support of alumni and friends of the department the Actuarial Science Alumni Scholarship is given to honor students for their demonstrated interest and achievements in pursuing their own passions and who have gone above and beyond to inspire greater aspiration in fellow students.
Presented with honor to Philip Song, a senior actuarial science major. Philip is president of the Actuarial Science Club, and has previously served as vice president of external affairs and company presentation chair. He is also a senior advisor for UNICEF, founding member of Gamma Iota Sigma, and a member of the UIUC Chess Club and Team.

Josephine Chanler Scholarship

Established in 2020-21, the Josephine Chanler Scholarship is named in honor of alumna Dr. Josephine Hughes Chanler, an American mathematician specializing in algebraic geometry. This scholarship is awarded based upon a student's GPA and strength of courses.

Presented with honor to Suchetan Dontha, a sophomore math and computer science major.

Vincent O. Greene Scholarship in Mathematics

The Vincent O. Greene Scholarship in Mathematics is given to deserving undergraduate students based on academic merit, with a preference to candidates interested in teaching.

Presented with honor to Katrina Schideman, a freshman majoring in mathematics. Katrina is a member of the campus honors program, Navigators and Stratford House and was named to the LAS Dean's List in fall 2020. She plays the piano and enjoys outdoor activities, reading and dance.

IMC Trading Mathematics Scholarship

The IMC Trading Mathematics Scholarship, a one-time, non-renewable scholarship provided through the generous support of IMC Trading, is awarded in recognition of outstanding achievement and continued academic excellence.

Presented with honor to Claire Song
Claire graduated with a degree in mathematics and statistics in December 2020.

Illinois Mathematics Excellence Scholarship

The Illinois Mathematics Excellence Scholarship is designed to attract the best of the best of the incoming class to mathematics at the University of Illinois.

Presented with honor to Garrett Credi , a freshman mathematics major and a Chancellor's Scholar. Garrett is host/interviewer for the MATRIX YouTube video team, ATLAS intern working on VR Programming and an Illinois Geometry Lab researcher studying Homotopy, Modular Forms, and the Spectrum Q(l).

Dr. Lois M. Lackner Mathematics Scholarship

The Dr. Lois M. Lackner Mathematics Scholarship, established by Dr. Lois Lackner-Strong, a University of Illinois alumna with degrees in the teaching of mathematics and in education.

Presented with honor to Daria Chudnovsky, a sophomore mathematics major. Daria is president of Undergraduate Association for Women in Mathematics and was received the Outstanding Oral Presentation in Education at UIUC 2020 Undergraduate Research Symposium for her presentation, "Igniting Students' Interest in Mathematics Through Abstract Mathematical Topics." She also enjoys playing the violin, Russian literature and experimenting with cooking.

Milliman Actuarial Science Scholarship

The Milliman Actuarial Science Scholarship is made possible by the generous support of Milliman and is awarded to students with exceptional balance of academic success and extracurricular activities.

Presented with honor to Tina Guo, a senior actuarial science and statistics major. Tina received the State Farm Actuarial Science Prize in 2020 and is vice president – internal for the Actuarial Science Club.

Susan C. Morisato Mathematics Scholarship

Established in 2015 by alumna Susan C. Morisato, who received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from UIUC, the Susan C. Morisato Mathematics Scholarship is awarded to deserving undergraduate women majoring in the Department of Mathematics.

Presented with honor to Anna Schulz, a freshman actuarial science major. Anna is a member of the Actuarial Science Club, Gamma Iota Sigma professional business fraternity and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Northwestern Mutual Scholarship

The Northwestern Mutual Scholarship, given to undergraduate students with a major in actuarial science and a GPA of 3.0 or greater.

Presented with honor to
Anna Schulz, a freshman actuarial science major. Anna is a member of the Actuarial Science Club, Gamma Iota Sigma professional business fraternity and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Stuart Seputro, a sophomore majoring in actuarial science and plant biotechnology. Stuart is co-founder and president of vermiculture, Team Leader for World YMCA Climate Action Summit for YMCA UIUC, and a James Scholar.

Minwoo Sung, a junior actuarial science and statistics major. Minwoo is a member of the Actuarial Science Club and machine learning team leader for Codable and also enjoys playing the guitar, singing, drawing and playing baseball.

Ruth V. Shaff and Genevie I. Andrews Mathematics Scholarship

The Ruth V. Shaff and Genevie I. Andrews Mathematics Scholarship is awarded to deserving women undergraduate students majoring in mathematics, computer science, and statistics.

Presented with honor to Connie Chen, a freshman mathematics major. Connie is an editor and writer for MATRIX's YouTube video team, volunteers with WeCu and serves on honors student council. She also enjoys playing the piano, creative writing, art and traveling.

Bradley M. and Karen A. Smith Scholarship

The Bradley M. and Karen A. Smith Scholarship was created in 2012 by the late President of the Society of Actuaries, Bradley Smith, and his wife, Karen Smith, and provides undergraduate scholarships to exemplary students who are studying actuarial science.

Presented with honor to
Eric Bayer, a junior actuarial science major, Chancellor's Scholar and James Scholar. Eric is received the Actuarial Science Fund Scholarship in 2018 and both the Midwestern Actuarial Forum Scholarship and Actuarial Alumni Scholarship in 2019. Eric is male captain of the swim club and a member of the Actuarial Science Club.

James Hynes, a senior actuarial science major. James is a member of the Actuarial Science Club and enjoys being active, playing basketball, and cooking.

Evelyn Lai, a senior actuarial science and statistics major and Edmund J. James Scholar. Evelyn received the Actuarial Science Alumni Scholarship in 2020 and is vice president – external of the Actuarial Science Club.

State Farm Actuarial Science Prize

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from State Farm, the State Farm Actuarial Science Prize is awarded annually to 10 outstanding actuarial science undergraduate and graduate students.

Presented with honor to
Matthew Jalnos, a junior majoring in actuarial science and economics and LAS James Scholar. Matthew is a member of the Actuarial Science Club.

Filip Klapacz, a junior actuarial science major.

Evan March, a junior majoring in actuarial science and economics and LAS James Scholar. Evan is treasurer of Gamma Iota Sigma and a member of the Actuarial Science Club and LAS Leaders.

Priyesh Patel, a senior actuarial science and economics major. Priyesh is social chair for Udaan Bollywood and a member of the Actuarial Science Club.

Alexander Valkanas, a junior actuarial science major and James Scholar. Alexander is a member of the Actuarial Science Club and Gamma Iota Sigma.

Andy Wang, a sophomore actuarial science major. Andy is a member of the Illini Swim Club and Actuarial Science Club.

Brendan Watson, a junior majoring in actuarial science and statistics. Brendan serves on the social committee for Gamma Iota Sigma and is a member of the Actuarial Science Club.

Henry Wu, a sophomore in actuarial science. Henry is a company presentations chair for the Actuarial Science Club and member of Covenant Fellowship Church.

Jesse Yan, a junior actuarial science major. Jesse is a member of the Actuarial Science Club, Gamma Iota Sigma and FACES Consulting.

Undergraduate Math Contests

The UI Math Contest Program is one of the most extensive and most visible in the country. It has been considerably expanded in recent years with additional contest opportunities and an enhanced training program, and participation in our events is at record levels. The program is organized by Professor Emeritus AJ Hildebrand and Professor Timur Oikhberg.

The 2020 U of I Freshman Math Contest
Held Oct. 17, 2020
First place: **Dinglong Wang**
Second place: **Aaron Cho**

2020 U of I Mock Putnam Contest
Held Dec. 5, 2020
First place: **Pavle Vuksanovic**
Second place: **Dinglong Wang**
Third place: **Alexander Ristich**

2021 U of I Undergraduate Math Contest
Held Feb. 13, 2021
First place: **Pavle Vuksanovic**
Second place: **Alexander Ristich**

Illinois Geometry Lab Awards

Susan C. Morisato IGL Scholarship
The Susan C. Morisato IGL Scholarship provides financial support for graduate students who previously participated as IGL research mentors for at least two semesters or summer to make progress on their thesis research for six weeks during in the summer. This annual scholarship is made possible by alumna Susan C. Morisato.
Presented with honor to
Nachiketa Adhikari, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor Sheldon Katz.

Jenna Zomback, a mathematics PhD student advised by Anush Tserunyan. Jenna is a member and former vice president of the Association of Women in Mathematics at UIUC and a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society and Pi Mu Epsilon math honor society. She received a Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need Fellowship in 2018-19 and Ruth V. Shaff and Genevie I. Andrews Fellowship in spring 2020.

IGL Research Award
The IGL Research Award is given to Illinois Geometry Lab groups from the preceding calendar year whose project exemplifies the IGL's mission to facilitate vertical integration of research and expand research opportunities for undergraduate students.
Presented with honor to "Firefighters on Graphs."
Graduate student team leader: **Bob Krueger**
Undergraduate students: **Tongyun Huang, Andy Lee, Mose Mizrahi, Abdullah Nooraldeen, Casey Wheaton-Werle**
Faculty mentor: **Sean English**

Thank You!

The Department of Mathematics thanks those who have given so generously to enhance excellence in mathematics at Illinois and make our awards and scholarships possible.

Danyel Graves Larsen

2021 Alumni Humanitarian Award

Danyel Graves Larsen of Oregon, Ill., has been named the recipient of the 2021 Alumni Humanitarian Award for her excellence and impact in the field of mathematics education.

For more than 15 years, Larsen has been cultivating the advancement of mathematics through education. After graduating from UIUC in 2004, she began teaching high school mathematics at Hiawatha Community Unit School District for three years before joining the Oregon Community School District in 2007.

Larsen's impact on the students of Oregon Community School District has been tremendous since she joined the district. Prior to her coming to the district as a high school math teacher, Oregon High School (OHS) was scoring below average student achievement in the area of mathematics for schools of its size and demographics. Almost immediately, Larsen's efforts served to change the course of education in mathematics for all OHS students. Within her first year, she was named department chair, and under her leadership, OHS dramatically changed its curriculum and course sequencing to better serve the needs of the students and community.

Currently, Larsen serves as National Board certification coordinator for the Oregon Community Unit School District and is also a candidate cohort facilitator for the National Board Resource Center at Illinois State University.

Among her numerous recognitions, Larsen has received the Lee Yunker Mathematics Leadership Award from the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics and been named an Exemplary Nominee for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Outstanding Young Educator Award. In 2015, she earned a Those Who Excel Certificate of Meritorious Service Award from the Illinois State Board of Education and has twice been named a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2015 and 2017.

Additionally, Larsen holds membership in several professional organizations, including the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics. She also served on the Illinois Education Associations Teacher Leaders and National Board Outreach Committee.

Larsen graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UIUC in 2004. She later completed a master's degree in mathematics with a specialization in education from Northern Illinois University. She and her husband, Adam, have a son, Colin, 3, and are expecting a second son later this month.

David G. Bourgin Mathematics Fellowship

The David G. Bourgin Mathematics Fellowship was established to provide fellowships to graduate students who are enrolled in the Department of Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Presented with honor to Vaibhav Karve, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor Anil Hirani. Vaibhav, a member of the Association for Women in Mathematics, has participated in four projects as part of the Illinois Geometry Lab and designed a new course for the Summer Illinois Math Camp in Summer 2017. Vaibhav has received the Gene H. Golub Summer Research Fellowship in summer 2019 from the UIUC Department of Mathematics; the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) Fellowship from the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, in 2010-2015; Departmental TA Instructional Award in 2019 from the UIUC Department of Mathematics; Honorable Mention in the 2019 Graduate Image of Research Competition, awarded by the UIUC Graduate College in 2019; IGL Research Award from the Illinois Geometry Lab, Department of Mathematics, UIUC, in Fall 2016; People's Choice Award for Research Live! Competition, UIUC, in 2016; Director's Gold Medal, awarded by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research – Kolkata, in 2015.

Kuo-Tsai Chen Prize

The Kuo-Tsai Chen Prize is named after Professor Kuo-Tsai Chen, a member of the Illinois faculty from 1967–87 and an outstanding mathematician of international reputation for his contributions to the qualitative theory of ordinary differential equations and to algebraic topology.

Presented with honor to Hadrian Quan, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor and Helen Corley Petit Scholar Pierre Albin. Hadrian previously received the Susan C. Morisato IGL Scholarship.

Wolfgang Haken Prize in Geometry and Topology

The Wolfgang Haken Prize in Geometry and Topology is awarded to a PhD student for outstanding research in geometry and topology. The award is named after Professor Emeritus Wolfgang Haken, a renowned topologist.

Presented with honor to Elizabeth Tatum, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor Vesna Stojanoska.

Dr. Lois M. Lackner Mathematics Fellowship

The Dr. Lois M. Lackner Mathematics Fellowship was established in 2007 through a generous gift by Dr. Lois Lackner-Strong, a University of Illinois alumna with degrees in the teaching of mathematics and in education, and is given to women graduate students in mathematics, with preference given to students of Czechoslovakian descent.

Presented with honor to Emily Shinkle, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor Christopher Leininger. Emily is a member of the Association for Women in Mathematics and was a semifinalist in the 2021 Graduate Student Image of Research competition.

Irving Reiner Memorial Award

Established in the memory of Professor Irving Reiner, a long-time member of the University of Illinois Department of Mathematics and a leader in the field of integral representation theory, the Irving Reiner Memorial Award is given to graduate students in recognition of outstanding scholastic achievement in the field of algebra.

Presented with honor to Hsin-Po Wang, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor Iwan Duursma. Hsin-Po received the Professor Cheng-Tang Hsiao Memorial Scholarship in 2014 and the Professor Ta-Kai Hu Memorial Scholarship in 2013, both from the National Taiwan University, and enjoys creating modular origami.

State Farm Actuarial Science Prize

Thanks to the generous sponsorship from State Farm, the State Farm Actuarial Science Prize is awarded annually to 10 outstanding actuarial science undergraduate and graduate students.

Presented with honor to Churui Li, a graduate student advised by Professor and Director of Actuarial Science Runhuan Feng.

Philippe Tondeur Dissertation Prize

Established to recognize students in their final year of the Mathematics PhD program, the Philippe Tondeur Dissertation Prize is provided through the generosity of Professor Emeritus Philippe Tondeur and his wife, Claire-Lise Tondeur.

Presented with honor to William Balderrama, a mathematics PhD. student advised by Professor and Kuo-Tsai Chen Faculty Scholar Charles Rezk.

Waldemar J., Barbara G., and Juliette Alexandra Trjitzinsky Fellowship

The Waldemar J., Barbara G., and Juliette Alexandra Trjitzinsky Fund was established to provide fellowships to graduate students in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Presented with honor to

Hadrian Quan, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor and Helen Corley Petit Scholar Pierre Albin. Hadrian previously received the Susan C. Morisato IGL Scholarship.

Xiaolong Han, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor Nathan Dunfield. Xiaolong received a Graduate Teacher Certificate and a Teacher Scholar Certificate from UIUC's Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

Yifan Jing, a mathematics PhD student advised by Professor and J. Andrew and Susan Langan Scholar Jozsef Balog and Professor Xiaochun Li.

Michael Stillman

2021 Outstanding Achievement Award

Dr. Michael Stillman of Ithaca, N.Y, has been named a recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Achievement Award for his outstanding professional career and significant contributions in computational algebraic geometry and commutative algebra.

In 1983, Stillman began work with David Bayer on the Macaulay computer algebra system. Named after English mathematician Francis Sowerby Macaulay, the Macaulay system showed that it was possible to solve actual problems in algebraic geometry using Gröbner basis techniques. The package became widely used by researchers, and Stillman and Bayer continued to improve the system until 1993. To get beyond several limitations in the design, Stillman began work on the Macaulay2 system with UIUC Professor Emeritus Daniel Grayson in 1993. Macaulay2 remains in active development and has been cited in over 2000 articles. In 2019, Stillman received the Richard D. Jenks Memorial Prize for Excellence in Software Engineering Applied to Computer Algebra for the revolutionary Macaulay and Macaulay2 computer algebra systems.

Additionally, Stillman had a major impact on the understanding of the Hilbert scheme; his paper reputedly is among the top cited papers on the subject. In 2015, he was selected as a fellow of the American Mathematical Society for his work in symbolic computation.

Following two postdoctoral research fellowships at Brandeis University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Stillman joined the mathematics faculty at Cornell University in 1987 as an assistant professor, where he currently serves as a professor of mathematics. He has advised 11 PhD dissertations, has published over 55 mathematical papers, and has been involved with numerous workshops and outreach activities targeted at graduate students and postdocs. He was recognized for his teaching as one of the top 10 professors at Cornell by Business Insider in 2013. He received the Stephen and Margery Russell Distinguished Teaching Award from Cornell in 2013 and has twice received the Cornell Department of Mathematics Senior Faculty Teaching Award in 2002 and 2016.

Stillman graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics from UIUC in 1978 before completing his PhD in mathematics from Harvard University in 1983. He was named the recipient of the department's prestigious H. Roy Brahana Prize in 1978. In Stillman's nomination letter, the late Professor Emeritus Graham Evans, wrote "I am not aware of any other of our students, especially undergraduates, whose work has had such an effect on their field."

Michael V. Colla Prize for Mathematics Related to Medicine

The Michael V. Colla Prize for Mathematics Related to Medicine is awarded to mathematics students, faculty members, or research groups for outstanding work in mathematics related to biological sciences and medicine.

Presented with honor to Professor Zoi Rapti in recognition of her impressive ongoing research and work on mathematical models of disease transmission, including epidemics, in both amphibian and mammalian populations, especially the work completed since March 2020 related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exceptional Merit Award in Mathematics for Non-Instructional Staff

The Exceptional Merit Award in Mathematics for Non-Instructional Staff recognizes a non-instructional staff member who exhibits excellence in their work.

Presented with honor to Brock Martin, associate director of business and financial planning. Since joining the department less than two years ago, Brock made significant improvements to the department's business operations including developing new financial reporting tools and identifying ways to effectively assign expenses to maximize use of existing resources while adhering to restrictions on account usage.

NetMath Award for Outstanding Service

The NetMath Award for Outstanding Service is given by the NetMath Program in the Department of Mathematics in recognition of exceptional service performed by a NetMath AP or Staff person.

Presented with honor to Amber Holmes. Amber joined NetMath in 2013 and currently serves as student services coordinator. Her primary duties focus on student recruitment and retention in the NetMath program. In this role, she is responsible for responding to student concerns and helping to resolve them, supporting students to ensure their success as online learners, and advocating for students' needs with program leadership.

LAS + Campus Awards

During last month's LAS Staff and Academic Professional Awards Program, **Alison Reddy** was recognized as a 2021 recipient of the LAS Academic Professional Award. Alison is director of mathematics placement and coordinator of quantitative reasoning courses in the Department of Mathematics.

Later this month, LAS will also recognize the 2020 and 2021 teaching award winners. We look forward to seeing **Professor Zoi Rapti**, a 2020 recipient of the LAS Dean's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and Elizabeth Field, a 2020 recipient of the LAS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants, honored during the program.

Both Zoi and Elizabeth also received 2020 Campus Awards for Excellence in Instruction, in addition to **Lecturer Aldo Manfroi**.

Judy Leavitt Walker

2021 Outstanding Achievement Award

Dr. Judy Leavitt Walker of Lincoln, Neb., has been named a recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Achievement Award for her outstanding professional career and her leadership and contributions to the advancement of mathematics and inclusion.

Walker currently serves as the Aaron Douglas Professor of Mathematics and associate vice chancellor for faculty and academic affairs at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL). On the national level, Walker serves as a trustee of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and is currently serving as chair of the AMS Board of Trustees.

Additionally, Walker co-founded the Nebraska Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics (NCUWM), a national conference for undergraduate students in mathematics with a focus on women. The NWCUM won the AMS Programs that Make a Difference Award in 2013.

Walker holds professional memberships in AMS, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), and it was noted by one of her nominators that she is one of the few individuals that could be called up to serve in leadership roles in each of the AMS, MAA, and AWM. She was named a fellow of AMS in 2012, and in 2019, she was named a fellow of AWM.

Among her numerous recognitions and honors, Walker received the MAA Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics in 2006, the AWM Louise Hay Award for Contributions to Mathematics Education in 2016 and the UNL Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award in 2014. She was also selected as MAA George Pólya Lecturer from 2009-2011 and has been awarded more than 20 grants, including a National Science Foundation (NSF) INCLUDES grant which conducted research to study and document the effectiveness of several long-running programs that enabled and encouraged women to participate in mathematics. She has published more than 30 publications and has served as an invited lecturer nearly 100 times.

Walker completed both a master's degree and a PhD from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She received the department's Irving Reiner Memorial Award in 1996. Before attending UIUC, she graduated with honors from University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1990. She and her husband, Mark Walker (PhD '96, mathematics), Willa Cather Professor of Mathematics at UNL, have two children: Madeline, 18, and Becca, 16.