From: The Association for Women in Mathematics Newsletter, vol. 32, no. 1 (January/February 2002)

carried out a large amount of editorial work, serving on the editorial boards of nine journals.

note from Cathleen Morawetz:

Richard Courant first met Olga Oleinik in 1960 in Moscow. She was introduced by Petrovsky as one of his prize students. In those days it was very difficult for Russians to get an exit visa to visit America. But in 1962 Olga was a delegate from the USSR to a Women's Convention in California. On the way back she visited Courant in New York, and that is how I met her. Later we were both guests of Professor Fichera in Rome and toured the sights together.

An indefatigable mathematician who made many profound contributions to p.d.e., notably nonlinear hyperbolic, she remained until her last illness a formidable worker. We women especially can mourn someone who, in those early days, toiled so successfully in a traditional men's field.

Dorothy McCoy

Dorothy McCoy (1903–2001)

Dorothy McCoy was born in August 9, 1903 in the Oklahoma Territory, near Enid. She had a brother, Neal, who was eighteen months younger. When Dorothy was about three years old, her father died and her mother moved Dorothy and Neal back to the family home in the tiny town of Chesapeake, Missouri. After the children finished grade school, the family moved again to Marionville, Missouri, near the local high school. Both Dorothy and Neal went on to earn undergraduate degrees with honor from Baylor University in Texas and both received Ph.D.'s in mathematics from the University of Iowa in 1929. Dorothy McCoy's dissertation was on "The Complete Existential Theory of Eight Fundamental Properties of Topological Spaces." She was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Iowa.

Neal McCoy become a professor of mathematics at Smith College where he was a noted algebraist and the well-known author of the widely used textbook *Introduction to Modern Algebra.* (See "In Memoriam," AWM *Newsletter*, Vol. 31, No. 2, 2001, p. 19.) Dorothy McCoy taught at Belhaven College in Mississippi for twenty years. She then became a professor of mathematics at Wayland Baptist College in 1949, the same year the college (now a university) began offering four-year degrees. At Wayland she taught all levels of mathematics, was head of the department of mathematics and physics, and from 1949 to 1972 served as chairman of the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences. She also directed the honors program in mathematics for many years.

Dorothy McCoy continued her study of mathematics during the summers at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Vanderbilt University and the University of Colorado. In 1954, she received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Iraq in Baghdad. She combined this experience with visits to several European countries. Later travels took her to South America, Africa, and Indonesia. She visited more than 60 countries, some as a visiting professor and others for personal enjoyment. In Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) she gave an invited lecture to elementary and high school teachers in a Rhodesia teachers college. While visiting several African cities, she was often asked to help tutor missionary children in mathematics.

Dr. McCoy also spent several summers working on

Joan P. Hutchinson, Macalester College; Larry Riddle, Agnes Scott College

the government's missile program at Cape Canaveral and the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, as well as teaching mathematics at the University of Hawaii, University of New Mexico, Baylor University, Northwestern State College of Oklahoma and Texas Tech University.

Dorothy McCoy retired from Wayland in 1975 with the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics, the only member of the faculty to have received the title of both emeritus and distinguished. In 1980 Wayland began the Dorothy McCoy Lecture Series. In 1982 she received the first Distinguished Service to Students Award and in 1999 the first Distinguished Lifetime Service Alumni Award. No other faculty member has been longer associated with Wayland or had more honors bestowed upon her.

Shortly before her death on November 21, 2001, Wayland Baptist University dedicated an honors dormitory for women in her name.

The following excerpts are from a letter sent by Dorothy McCoy to the first author of this note, in the spring of 2001, and were included with her permission in the copy of this profile at the second author's web site on "Biographies of Women Mathematicians" at www.agnesscott.edu/lriddle/women/women.htm.

> Neal and I had a one room elementary school at Chesapeake, Mo. Neal was caught in a scheduling situation where he and I had 8th grade together but he was supposed to take 7th grade the next year. We both passed the County examination but from then on through Ph.D. we had almost identical courses together and did our dissertations under the same professor, Dr. Chittenden, though the dissertation areas were very different. Neal taught during our second year of graduate school and I did the third year which made me graduate 6 weeks later.
>
> Somewhere in grade school a teacher told me the area of a parallelogram was the product of the two sides. I did not believe it so I went home and cut papers until I was sure she was wrong. In high school I was very impressed with the logic of geometry and loved the Q.E.D. at the end of proofs. We had trigonometry in high school so should have started calculus but were put in solid geometry. I remember the class all being at the board in analytical geometry and Professor Harrell showing Neal and me how to "complete the square." I was really impressed with it. Our last two years were worthless mathematically.

References

1. Cohen, David. "In Memoriam, Neal H. McCoy, 1905-2001," Memorial Minute presented to a meeting of the Smith College Faculty, 2001.
2. Wayland Baptist University News Release, November 29, 2001.
3. Wayland Baptist University archive materials.

AWARDS AND HONORS

CONGRATULATIONS to the women listed below for their meritorious achievements!

KRISTEN S. MOORE (University of Michigan) has been awarded an American Fellowship from the American Association of University Women to fund a postdoctoral leave at the University of Wisconsin, where she will study the use of partial differential equations in actuarial mathematics. Only eighteen of these fellowships are awarded annually in all of the arts and humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The competition is based on excellence in scholarly activities and teaching, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, and fields of research.

As part of the University of Maryland College of Education observation of American Education Week, November 12–18, 2001, seven alumni were honored for their achievements. GENEVIEVE M. KNIGHT was recognized as a Distinguished Scholar in Education.

Knight is Professor of Mathematics at Coppin State College. With the exception of a two-year position at Pennsylvania State Capital College, she has served at Coppin State since 1985. She has also taught mathematics at Hampton Institute in Virginia and Edison Junior College in Fort Myers, FL, and worked as a computer specialist for the United States Army Information Engineering Systems Command. She has directed a Junior/Senior High School Teacher Workshops for NASA in addition to serving on a number of boards such as the