Participants

We believe that one of the main strengths of our event is community involvement. Our participants include faculty and students from nearby universities, PLU alumnæ, and members of the campus community, both students and faculty, within and outside of the department.

Organizers

Dr. Amy Shell-Gellasch received her DA in mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2000, with an historical thesis on mathematician Mina Rees. She was named an R. L. Moore Project NeXT Fellow in 2000. She then spent three years as a post-doctorate at the United States Military Academy. Currently she is a Faculty Fellow at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. Her focus is the History of Mathematics and Its Uses in Teaching. For example, her most recent publication is the MAA Notes volume Hands On History which provides ways for teachers to make and use historical models in the mathematics classroom. She has organized numerous meetings and sessions to include the 2004 MAA short course, The History of Mathematical Technologies: Exploring the Material Culture of Mathematics.

Dr. Ksenija Simic-Muller co-organized two Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Days while a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Arizona. She has recently begun her first year at Pacific Lutheran University as a tenure-track faculty member in mathematics education. Her current interests are in curriculum development, especially in the area of teaching mathematics for social justice. She is especially passionate about teacher preparation, and is currently working with future elementary teachers. In the past, she ran an after-school Math Club for Latino/a students and helped run a summer camp for Native American students. She has also taught a variety of mathematics courses at all levels.

Dr. Jessica Sklar is a newcomer to Sonia Kovalevsky High School Mathematics Days, but has long had an interest in encouraging girls and women in the field of mathematics; she also has a more general interest in gender equity, and has served on the Pacific Lutheran University’s Women’s
and Gender Studies Committee since Fall 2002. As an undergraduate, Jessica participated in the Bryn Mawr-Spelman Summer Mathematics Program (later evolved into the EDGE program), and experienced first-hand what a difference mentoring can make in a student’s life. She hopes to play the same role for students as her mentors played for her: for instance, she was thrilled to go back and serve as a graduate student panel member for EDGE. She particularly enjoys making mathematics fun and accessible to students at a variety of levels.

Panelists

Melissa Moon is an Actuarial Analyst and Milliman
Emily Shields graduates from PLU in 200 with a Masters in Education. She teaches math and science at Ford Middle School in the Franklin Pierce School District.
Pamela Wrenn is a senior traffic engineer with Jacobs Carter Burgess.

Facilitators

Dr. Jennifer Quinn earned her BA, MS, and PhD from Williams College, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin, respectively. She recently joined the faculty at the University of Washington, Tacoma where she is a Professor of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences working to build a mathematics curriculum on the expanding campus. Prior to joining UWT, she served as Executive Director of the Association for Women in Mathematics and before that, spent more than a decade as a faculty member at Occidental College in Los Angeles.
Stephanie Vance is a graduate student at University of Washington, Seattle. She has worked with elementary and middle school students and has taught courses for preservice teachers.
Dr. Mei Zhu is a bio-mathematician who uses mathematics as a tool to study biological problems. She is currently the Chair of the PLU Mathematics Department.
Katherine Collins is a PLU undergraduate with a double major in Mathematics and Economics, and a minor in Women’s and Gender Studies.
Crystal Hartman is also a PLU undergraduate with a double major in Mathematics and Computer Science, and is currently applying to master’s degree programs in Education.