

Contacts:

Jennifer Quinn <i>Executive Director</i> jqinn@awm-math.org 253- 879-3630	Cathy Kessel <i>President</i> cbkessel@earthlink.net	Jennifer Lewis <i>Managing Director</i> jennifer@awm-math.org 703-934-0163
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11240 Waples Mill Road Suite 200, Fairfax VA, 22030 www.awm-math.org

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REBECCA GOLDIN SELECTED AS FIRST RECIPIENT OF RUTH I. MICHLER MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Association for Women in Mathematics and Cornell University are pleased to announce that **Rebecca Goldin**, George Mason University, will receive the first annual Ruth I. Michler Memorial Prize. The Michler Prize is unique—it grants a mid-career woman in academe a residential fellowship in the Cornell University mathematics department without teaching obligations. This pioneering venture was established through a very generous donation from the Michler family and the efforts of many people at AWM and Cornell. The high quality of proposals submitted this first year attests to the need for such opportunities.



mathematics department at George Mason University. In 2004, Goldin assumed the role of Director of Research for Statistical Assessment Services, a nonprofit organization affiliated with George Mason University in addition to her responsibilities as a professor in mathematics. In 2006, she was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.

Goldin's research investigates symplectic geometry—a field that arose from the study of geometric structures underlying classical and quantum physics, but has become of great importance in modern differential geometry. She is a leader in work centered on Hamiltonian group actions and the study of topology and geometry of symplectic quotients. Her work has been called “influential,” “elegant,” “precise,” and has been funded by two separate NSF research grants.

Rebecca Goldin was selected to receive the Michler Prize because of her past achievements and future promise. After earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics with honors from Harvard University, Goldin spent a year in France at the Ecole Normale Supérieure collaborating with Bernard Teissier on toric varieties. She then returned to Cambridge to pursue her doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she investigated the cohomology ring of weight varieties under the direction of Victor Guillemin. A two and a half year NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Maryland was followed by a tenure track appointment to the

At Cornell, Goldin plans to collaborate with Tara Holm, Reyer Sjamaar, and Ed Swartz on questions involving equivariant cohomology, generalized Schubert Calculus, orbifold cohomology, K -theory, and even the relationship between the geometry of hypertoric varieties and oriented matroids. The Cornell mathematics department is planning a dedication in the fall of 2007 when Goldin will be in residence. Ruth Michler's parents hope to attend.

Ruth Michler's parents Gerhard and Waltraud Michler of Essen, Germany established the memorial prize with the Association for Women in Mathematics because Ruth was deeply committed to its mission of supporting women mathematicians. Cornell University was chosen as the host institution because of its distinctive research atmosphere and because Ithaca was Ruth's birthplace. At the time of her death, Ruth was in Boston as an NSF visiting scholar at Northeastern University. A recently promoted associate professor of mathematics at the University of North Texas, she was killed on November 1, 2000 at the age of 33 in a tragic accident, cutting short the career of an excellent mathematician.