

Member-at-Large Candidate

Ruth Haas
Smith College

Women are still in the minority in mathematics. At all levels and all stages, women drop out or drop down at a higher rate than men. As long as this is the case, there is a role for the AWM. The AWM should help women find fellowship (!) in the mathematical community and help all mathematicians and their employers learn to treat colleagues fairly, supportively and without bias.

Doing mathematics is hard because, by its nature, we are facing something unknown. For the same reason, there are many stages of being a mathematician and an academic that seem hard as well. AWM is a community of mathematicians at all levels and stages, with a variety of career paths, who can be examples for each others on how one gets a job, gets tenure, continues doing research while balancing the other aspects of a full life.

Through its sponsored and co-sponsored prizes, invited lectures, and workshops, the AWM works to promote the visibility and success of some of the best women in mathematics. This is important, and should continue. In addition, however, we must support all women in mathematics by fostering community and helping each of us remember that being an average mathematician is a great achievement. I appreciate being nominated for the AWM Executive Committee as I hope to be able to help it support and promote all women in mathematics.

Biographical Information: Ruth Haas has been at Smith College for 18 years where she is currently Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. In the 1990s, she was instrumental in starting its engineering program (the first at a women's college) and recently co-founded the NSF-funded Center for Women in Mathematics. The Center hosts the first U.S. post-baccalaureate program in mathematics, which is designed for women with bachelor's degrees who are considering mathematics graduate school but lack sufficient preparation.

Ruth earned a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and Ph.D. from Cornell University. She has held positions at North Carolina State University, The University of Twente in the Netherlands, and Smith College. She has also taught in a variety of summer enrichment programs for high school students, high school teachers, and the Summer Program for Women in Mathematics at George Washington University. She has actively engaged undergraduates in much of her research.

Her main areas of research are graph theory and algebraic combinatorics. More specifically, she has published in the combinatorial aspects of Weyl groups, graph coloring, graph domination, rigidity, and the algebraic aspects of splines. Recent invited talks include a plenary address at MAA MathFest 2005, a plenary address at the Midwest

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Conference on Combinatorics, Cryptography, and Computing 2005, and the keynote address at Career Mentoring Workshop 2007. From 1995–2005 she co-organized the Combinatorics of New England (CONE) Conference series.