



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

ETTA ZUBER FALCONER

1933-2002, USA - Etta was born into an African-American family who clearly valued education. Falconer was awarded her Ph.D. in 1969 for a thesis entitled *Quasi Group Identities Invariant under Isotopy*. Two papers by Falconer were based on the thesis. The first, *Isotopy invariants in quasigroups*, was published in 1970 in the *Transactions of the American Mathematical Society*.



Falconer was appointed to the faculty in the Mathematics Department at Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia in 1971, and after spending the academic year 1971-72 there, she returned to Spelman College as Professor of Mathematics and Head of the Mathematics Department. In 1982 she became Head of the Division of Natural Sciences and in 1990 she became Fuller E Calloway Professor of mathematics and Director of Science Programs and Policy at Spelman.

She received the National Association of Mathematicians Distinguished Service Award in 1994 and the Association for Women in Mathematics Louis Hay Award in 1995 for contributions to Mathematics Education.

Further honours given to Falconer include the Giants in Science Award from the Quality Education for Minorities Network in 1996 and an honorary doctorate from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1996. In 2001 she was awarded the Lifetime Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The Association for Women in Mathematics and the Mathematical Association of America annually present the Etta Z. Falconer Lectures at Math Fest each summer in honour of her achievements.

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