



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

ALICE TURNER SCHAFER

1915- , USA - Schafer received her BA from the University of Richmond in 1936. She was an exceptional student and in her third year won the Crump prize for real analysis.

In 1939 Alice Turner was awarded a fellowship to enable her to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Chicago. She later published two papers based on the work of her dissertation: *Two singularities of space curves* appeared in the *Duke Mathematical Journal* in 1944, and *The neighborhood of an undulation point on a space curve* appeared in the *American Journal of Mathematics* in 1948.



In 1980 she was honoured by being named Helen Day Gould Professor of Mathematics at Wellesley College. One of Schafer's many educational innovations at Wellesley was an educational experiment in 1976 aimed at preventing students from becoming frightened by mathematics. She retired in 1980 but remained at Wellesley for two further years during which she was chairman of Wellesley's Affirmative Action Program.

Schafer was one of the founding members of the Association for Women in Mathematics in 1971 and she was elected as the second President, serving from 1973-75. In 1990 the Association for Women in Mathematics established the Alice T Schafer Mathematics Prize in her honour.

In 1964 Schafer received an honorary degree from the University of Richmond. Then Westhampton College at that university awarded her their Distinguished Alumna Award in 1977. In 1985 Alice Schafer was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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