



FIELDS

**FIELDS INSTITUTE** Research in Mathematical Science

[www.fields.utoronto.ca](http://www.fields.utoronto.ca)

## CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

### KAREN KESKULLA UHLENBECK

1942- , USA - Uhlenbeck entered the University of Michigan with the intention of studying physics but a combination of exciting mathematics courses, and finding that physics labs were not a strong point, led her to change to mathematics. She was awarded a BS in mathematics in 1964.



After graduating from the University of Michigan, Uhlenbeck continued her studies at the Courant Institute in New York. However at this time she married and decided to follow her husband when he went to Harvard. She entered Brandeis University and was awarded a Master's Degree in 1966. She remained at Brandeis to study for her doctorate under Richard Palais' supervision, and was awarded a PhD in 1968.

Her first appointment was a one year post in 1968-69 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Then she took up another temporary post, this time for two years as a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley during 1969-71.

After being on the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 1971 to 1976, she moved to the University of Illinois at Chicago where she was promoted to full professor.

In 1983 she was awarded a MacArthur Prize Fellowship and moved to a professorship at the University of Chicago. In 1988 Uhlenbeck was appointed Professor in the University of Texas at Austin where she also holds the Sid W. Richardson Foundation Regents Chair in Mathematics.

Among the many honours that Uhlenbeck has received for her work, one should mention in particular that she was elected a Member of the American Academy of Arts and Science in 1985 and a Member of the National Academy of Sciences the following year.

*Biography courtesy of The MacTutor History of Mathematics archive*