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FIELDS INSTITUTE Research in Mathematical Science

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CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

MARGARET WRIGHT

1944- , USA - Margaret Wright received her BS in Mathematics and MS in Computer Science from Stanford University. After several years in industry, she returned to Stanford to complete her PhD in Computer Science in 1976. Her thesis was entitled *Numerical Methods For Nonlinearly Constrained Optimization*. She remained at Stanford as a Research Associate until joining Bell Laboratories in 1988 where she was named a Distinguished Member of the



Technical Staff and later a Bell Labs Fellow. She served as head of the Scientific Computing Research Department from 1997-2000. In 2001 Wright became a professor of computer science and mathematics and chair of the Computer Science Department in the Courant Institute at New York University.

Wright is a well known mathematician in the fields of optimization, linear algebra, numerical and scientific computing, and scientific and engineering applications. She has written two books on optimization with P.E. Gill and W.

Murray, over 40 publications, and almost 50 technical reports for Stanford and Bell Laboratories. She has also served as associate editor for five journals.

In 1995-1996, Wright served as President of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics. She was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1997, to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2001, and to the National Academy of Sciences in 2005. In 2000 she presented the AWM Noether Lecture. She received both the 2001 Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession from SIAM and the 2002 Award for Distinguished Public Service from the American Mathematical Society. The citation for the latter award noted that “Professor Wright has been active for many years in encouraging women and minority students, for example, by means of programs that brought them together with leaders and researchers from industry to discuss opportunities outside academia.”

Biography courtesy of the Agnes Scott Project