

Contacts:

Cathy Kessel	Maeve Lewis McCarthy	Jennifer Lewis
<i>President</i>	<i>Executive Director</i>	<i>Managing Director</i>
cbkessel@earthlink.net	mlmccarthy@awm-math.org	jennifer@awm-math.org
510-548-0254	270-621-3365	703-934-0163

11240 Waples Mill Road Suite 200, Fairfax VA, 22030 www.awm-math.org

May 19, 2008

Dianne O’Leary to be AWM-SIAM Sonia Kovalevsky Lecturer

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) have selected **Dianne O’Leary** to deliver the prestigious Sonia Kovalevsky Lecture at the 2008 SIAM Annual Meeting. O’Leary is a Professor in the Computer Science Department and at the Institute for Advanced Computer Studies at the University of Maryland. She was selected as the Kovalevsky Lecturer in recognition of her significant research in computational linear algebra and optimization, subjects at the interface between computer science and mathematics. Her work includes numerous articles in diverse areas, such as conjugate gradient methods and preconditioners, regularization, image processing, truncated Newton methods, block conjugate gradient and quasi-Newton methods, linear and quadratic programming, and hidden Markov models. Applications of her core research work include information retrieval, computational biology, and quantum computing.

O’Leary received her BS in Mathematics from Purdue University and her PhD in Computer Science from Stanford University. She began her academic career in the Mathematics Department at the University of Michigan before moving to the University of Maryland, where she has been in the Computer Science Department for thirty years. She has also served as a consultant at the National Institute of Standards and Technology since 1978.

The 2008 SIAM Annual Meeting will be held July 7–11, 2008 in San Diego, CA. The Kovalevsky Lecture honors Sonia Kovalevsky (1850–1891), the most widely known Russian mathematician of the late 19th century. In 1874, Kovalevsky received her Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Göttingen and was appointed lecturer at the University of Stockholm in 1883. She did her most important work in the theory of differential equations. Past Kovalevsky lecturers are Lai-Sang Young, Irene Fonseca, Ingrid Daubechies, Joyce R. McLaughlin, and Linda R. Petzold.

She is an Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery and received an honorary



doctorate in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo in 2005.

O’Leary has served on several editorial boards and will begin her term as Editor-in-Chief of the *SIAM Journal on Matrix Analysis and Applications* in 2009. She has organized many conferences, including the Householder Conferences in Numerical Linear Algebra and the Women of Applied Mathematics Conference in 2003.

She has been deeply engaged in education and mentoring activities throughout her career and is a powerful role model.

Cathy Kessel, president of AWM, comments: “This is delightful. Applications are far from what I do and I was not particularly aware of O’Leary’s mathematical work although I’ve known of her AWM-related activities throughout the years. It’s impressive and inspirational to learn that at the same time she has been doing significant research.”