

Felix Klein and Hans Freudenthal Awards 2015

Ferdinando Arzaello und Lena Koch

We take great pleasure in announcing that the ICMI Award Committee has decided on the ICMI Medallists for 2015. The recipients for 2015 of the Felix Klein and Hans Freudenthal Awards are:

- *Alan J. Bishop* (Monash University, Australia) – The Felix Klein Medal for lifetime achievement
- *Jill Adler* (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa) – The Hans Freudenthal Medal for a major cumulative programme of research

Please join with us in congratulating both Alan and Jill, and acknowledging their fine contributions to mathematics education and therefore to the mathematics education community. We look forward to honouring them at ICME-13 in Hamburg in 2016.

The Felix Klein Medal for 2015 goes to Alan J. Bishop, Emeritus Professor of Education, Monash University, Australia

It is with great pleasure that the ICMI Awards Committee hereby announces that the Felix Klein Medal for 2015 is given to Alan J. Bishop, Emeritus Professor of Education, Monash University, Australia, in recognition of his more than forty-five years of sustained, consistent, and outstanding lifetime achievements in mathematics education research and scholarly development. Alan's



Alan J. Bishop
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early research on spatial abilities and visualization became transformed during a sabbatical leave in 1977 to Papua New Guinea where he began to think about the process of mathematical enculturation and how it is carried out in different countries. His subsequent book, *Mathematical Enculturation: A Cultural*

Perspective on Mathematics Education, published in 1988, was ground-breaking in that it developed a new conception of mathematics – the notion of mathematics as a cultural product and the cultural values that mathematics embodies. Further evolution of this notion occurred as a result of his co-organizing a special day-long event during the 1988 Sixth International Congress on Mathematical Education devoted to “Mathematics, Education, and Society”, and which eventually led to successive conferences on the political and social dimensions of mathematics education. Alan Bishop has been instrumental in bringing the political, social, and cultural dimensions of mathematics education to the attention of the field.

Alan Bishop has also contributed substantially to the field by means of the extensive editorial work he has done. In the late 1970s, Hans Freuden-

thal, who had been the founding editor of *Educational Studies in Mathematics*, tapped Alan to be the second editor. Alan began his editorship of the journal with Volume 10 in 1979, ending it with Volume 20 in 1989. In 1980, he founded and became the series editor of Kluwer's (now Springer's) *Mathematics Education Library*, which currently contains 63 volumes. He was the chief editor of the *International Handbook of Mathematics Education* (1996) and the *Second International Handbook of Mathematics Education* (2003), and he continued as an editor for the *Third International Handbook* (2013). Through his tireless and scholarly work in the area of publication, Alan Bishop has enabled research in mathematics education to become an established field.

The Hans Freudenthal Medal for 2015 goes to Jill Adler, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa



Jill Adler (© Jill Adler)

It is with great pleasure that the ICMI Awards Committee hereby announces that the Hans Freudenthal Medal for 2015 is given to Professor Jill Adler, FRF Chair of Mathematics Education, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, in recognition of her outstanding research program dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of mathematics in South Africa – from her 1990s ground-breaking, sociocultural research on the inherent dilemmas of teaching mathematics in multilingual classrooms through to her subsequent focus on problems related to mathematical knowledge for teaching and mathematics teacher professional development. Jill's research of multilingual classrooms during a period of change in South Africa puts into stark relief the tensions involved in teaching and learning mathematics in classrooms where the language of instruction is different from the language of teachers' and students' every-day lives. In her 2001 book, *Teaching Mathematics in Multilingual Classrooms*, she displays the strong theoretical grounding that has served to advance the field's understanding of the relationship between language and mathematics in the classroom. During the years from 1996 onward, Jill spearheaded several large-scale teacher development projects. The most recent one, begun in 2009, called the Wits Maths Con-

nect Secondary project, aims to further develop mathematics teaching practice at the secondary level so as to enable more learners from disadvantaged communities to qualify for the study of mathematics-related courses at university. This ongoing research and development project is a further testament to Jill's unstinting efforts to face head-on the challenges of improving mathematics teaching in post-apartheid South Africa – efforts that have been recognized by several awards over the years, including the University of the Witwatersrand Vice Chancellor's Research Award for 2003, the FRF Chair of Mathematics Education in 2009, the Gold Medal for Science in the Service of Society from the Academy of Science of South Africa in 2012, and the Svend Pedersen Lecture Award in Mathematics Education from Stockholm University in 2015. For the inspiring, persistent, and scholarly leadership that Jill Adler has provided to the field of mathematics education research and practice in South Africa and beyond, she is truly deserving of the Hans Freudenthal medal for 2015.

Information provided by Ferdinando Arzarello (President of ICMI) and Lena Koch, International Mathematical Union (Secretariat).