

SENIOR ANNE BENNETT PRIZE: citation for Peter Clarkson

Short citation:

Professor Peter Clarkson, of the University of Kent, is awarded a Senior Anne Bennett Prize in recognition of his tireless work to support gender equality in UK mathematics, and particularly for his leadership in developing good practice among departments of mathematical sciences.

Long citation:

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Clarkson is an eminent mathematician with a long record of service to the profession. Most notable are his considerable efforts in the area of gender equality, in which he has had a tremendous impact as a Head of Department at Kent, as a member of the ECU's Athena Swan advisory group, and as one of the longest-serving and most active members of the LMS Women in Mathematics Committee. From joining the committee in 2007, he was a driving force behind its work, particularly in the establishment of the highly successful Good Practice Scheme to support university Mathematics Departments. He was one of the founding members of the GPS Steering Group and chair for 2013-2018. Peter was one of the key GPS players (along with Cathy Hobbs and Gwyneth Stallard) involved in commissioning the first ever national benchmarking survey of good practice in UK mathematics departments.

As a highly regarded Head of Department, Peter provided a bridge between the LMS WIM Committee, ECU and HoDoMS. His understanding of the issues and practicalities facing heads of departments was hugely important in shaping the GPS, ensuring that it is relevant and supportive to departments, and enabled him to provide valuable guidance and advice to ECU around the development of the Athena SWAN Charter process.

Peter's energy and commitment to improving gender diversity the UK mathematics community has been substantial, inspiring and successful. He has a huge personal commitment and drive to ensure that women are able to flourish in their mathematical careers and has acted as mentor, both formally and informally, for many women at different levels of their careers. He has provided enormous moral and practical support in enabling the chairs of the WIM Committee to fulfill their roles successfully – in a world that is still predominantly male, the active support of a highly regarded male professor is of enormous benefit and importance.