

**19<sup>th</sup> Emmy Noether High School Mathematics  
Day Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Texas Tech University  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022**



The 2022 Emmy Noether High School Mathematics Day is a continued effort by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Texas Tech University to expand the department's outreach efforts and make a difference in our high school graduates. This annual event was initiated in 2003 in the effort to

- provide women students with a unique, high-quality experience designed to foster interest in mathematics
- provide women students the opportunity to experience the university environment
- gain insight into women professors' experiences and educational opportunities associated with mathematics
- provide women students the opportunity to learn that careers in mathematics, science, and engineering are attainable.

**This year Carrier Panelists are**

**Aliza Wong, Ph.D.**

Interim Dean of the Honors College  
Professor in the Honors College and the Department of History



Dr. Aliza S. Wong is the Interim Dean of the Honors College, a Professor of History, and the Director of European Studies. She joined the administration of the Honors College in 2014. She has been teaching for the Department of History at Texas Tech University since 2001. She serves as the Director of European Studies. A dedicated teacher, Dr. Wong has been honored with numerous teaching awards. Recently, Dr. Wong was selected as an Integrated Scholar by the Office of the Provost at Texas Tech University. She also received the highest teaching award of the Texas Tech University System, the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award in 2015. For her work on multiculturalism, diversity, and access and opportunity, Dr. Wong received the Texas Tech Inclusive Excellence Award in 2013 and the President's Excellence in

Diversity Award in 2015. Dr. Wong's profile was featured by the College of Arts and Sciences at TTU among *the most inspirational women of the College*, on March 8, 2022 (Womens History Month). Dr. Wong is a specialist in modern Italian history with a concentration on southern question discourse, race, nationalism, and identity. Her book, *Race and Nation in Liberal Italy, 1861-1911: Meridionalism, Empire, and Diaspora* is available from Palgrave-Macmillan. Dr. Wong is a two-time Fulbright Scholar. She is an inspiration and role model for all women at TTU. She has been very active in promoting diversity, equity and inclusion among students and faculty, along with achieving greater levels of student success.

### **Tara Stevens, Ed.D.**

Professor of Educational Psychology  
Educational Psychology, Leadership, & Counseling



Dr. Tara Stevens is a professor of Educational Psychology and is licensed to practice psychology in Texas schools as an LSSP. Her research interests have focused on variables that influence mathematics achievement. She has studied efficacy beliefs and interest, television viewing, ADHD, and physical activity. More recently, her research focus has shifted from students to teachers to include the investigation of teacher trauma related to classroom, school, and broader contexts. She has received prior funding from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, American Educational Research Association/IES, and the Mathematical Association of America/Tensor-Summa Foundation. She served as co-principal investigator on multi-million-dollar grants. She currently serves as the Ombudsperson of Texas Tech University.

### **Magdalena Toda, Ph.D.**

Professor of Mathematics  
Department Chair of the Mathematics and Statistics Department at Texas Tech



Magdalena Toda came to TTU in Fall 2021 as assistant professor tenure-track, one year after receiving her Ph.D. in Mathematics. In 2014, she became a Professor of Mathematics at Texas Tech University, where she has served as interim chairperson between 2015-2016, and as department chairperson since 2016. Since 2015, she has helped hire 27 faculty, 20 postdocs and several staff members. She has handled the tenure and promotion dossiers of over 30 faculty. She published two books and over 40 articles in academic journals on topics including surface theory and geometric solutions of non-linear partial differential equations. Over the past decade, she has studied surface theory from a purely geometric viewpoint, along with geometric flows. Willmore-type energies and their applications to bio elastic membranes and proteins represent one of her most recent interests, since 2015. She has been the main organizer of the Emmy Noether High School Day over the past 16 years. She has served as a principal or co-principal investigator on external grants whose total amount exceeded 1.3 million dollars; and served as supporting personnel for federal grants that exceeded 7 million dollars.