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Famous Mathematician: Julia Robinson

In America, we have been blessed to given many individuals who main goal was to educate us on mathematics. These people are problem solvers, scientists, and also analytical. They are among those who can manipulate many things. One person who is well-know mathematician is Julia Robinson. Julia Robinson is a well known mathematician because she was the first women to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences. She also was the first women president of the American Mathematical Society. She was also known for her daily task of mathematics. She would try to change the world of mathematics one day at a time. Mathematics such Julia Robinson have had a huge impact on the world of mathematics.

She was born in St. Louis, Missouri in December of 1919. She was a first generation college student as her parents did not have the privilege to attend college. This was a motivational peak for her. She believed that she deserved to be more knowledgable than her parents. During her years in high school, she knew was meant to be in the scientific/mathematic field rather than the liberal arts that her school focused on. In high school, she noticed that her mathematics course was standard for the time. She learned geometry in 10th, advanced algebra in 11th, and trigonometry and solid geometry in 12th. From her life standpoint, most girls did not continue math after 10th grade. She knew that she would be considered different because she did not stop taking mathematics. She was known for being the only good in these mathematics classes and always being the best student. She never felt challenged because her teachers did not expect from the class.

In college, Robinson was not shocked at the statistics of the professors. Not one mathematics professor has Ph.D at the time at her college San Diego State University. There was also no women teaching mathematics either. Women with doctorates taught biology and psychology. Robinson noticed that there was a large number of mathematics majors who wanted to be engineers. The women who were mathematics majors were planning on being teachers. At the time, Robinson did not know what she wanted to be but she did know she wanted to be involved with mathematics. She did know the word mathematician existed during her freshman year. After her fathers savings were exhausted, he took his life which made it difficult for her pay for college. She still ended up staying enrolled at San Diego State University taking mathematics courses in specific cycle. Once she reacher her sophomore year, she noticed the number of mathematics majors to decline because they transferred to other schools. This caused certain classes to be only offered in certain cycles which made her duration in college a tad longer than normal.

Robinson enjoyed being at San Diego State University but she transferred to University of California at Berkeley to pursue a degree in research mathematics. In 1940, received her Bachelors of Arts in research mathematics. Once completing that degree, she went on the graduate school because she noticed that employers were more worried if she could type rather than her education in mathematics. In 1941, she married her professor at Berkley where she studied number theory. After the wedding, she was no longer allowed to teach as a graduate student so she began to work with logician Alfred Tarski in 1947. In 1948, she received her doctorate and her thesis involved the notions of rational numbers and their operation. In the same year, Robinson began work on Hilbert’s tenth problem which was to find a effective method for determining if a given equation is solvable in integers. Her results from this work is what made her famous. She found out so many useful tactics used to answer the tenth problem of Hilbert.

In conclusion, Robinson was a innovator and motivation for many female mathematicians. She had a lot of misfortunes in her life which didn’t stop her from being a successful mathematician. As stated above, she is known for being the first female for a lot of things such as National Academic of Sciences, American Mathematical Society, and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Robinson was a true mathematician who educated up to a doctorate degree and she is a true visionary on the subject of mathematics.

Bibliography

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