

Henry L. Alder Awards

Kim Seashore

San Francisco State University

Dr. Kim Seashore of San Francisco State University is an exceptional and inspiring teacher and mentor, who works tirelessly on making her home department a better place to work with colleagues and students. Her teaching gets high praise from her students, who write that they aspire to be such a teacher themselves someday.

An unusually active curriculum innovator, Dr. Seashore has engaged SF State mathematics faculty and teaching assistants in thinking more deeply, critically, and compassionately about their teaching. Dr. Seashore taught at middle and high schools before she decided to further her education and teach at SF State. The culture in middle and high schools dictates that teaching and curriculum development are a collective activity: teachers discuss what and how they teach constantly and they observe each other's classes very frequently. Dr. Seashore has been the force to implement a form of this in the SF State mathematics department.

Her department now collaborates and learns from each other in ways never used before. Dr. Seashore initiated faculty groups discussing teaching practices, developing classroom material and activities to be used by the instructors, in particular, by graduate teaching associates. In addition, Dr. Seashore implemented the ideas and material generated by the faculty groups in her own classes. Dr. Seashore often shares her expertise with the wider community by offering workshops and mentoring at nearby universities, including supporting recent graduates from SF State.

As a mentor, Dr. Seashore has already served as the principal MA thesis adviser to eight graduate students. In 2016, she established the Mathematics Education Research Group for Equity (MERGE) at SF State. This active research group notably includes not just students immersed in math education research. In fact, a large number of undergraduate and graduate students, including many who are not in her classes or under her official mentorship, seek out Dr. Seashore for advice on mathematics, education, and beyond.

Driven by a desire to make the Mathematics Department live up to the academy's ideals—to be nurturing, responsive to diverse needs, and to attract a community of mutually supporting students and scholars—Dr. Kim Seashore exemplifies a high-quality, inclusive, and global educational mission at its best. We enthusiastically recognize Dr. Seashore's achievements as teacher, colleague, and mentor with the 2021 Henry L. Alder Award.

Response

I am honored and humbled to be selected as a 2021 MAA Alder Awardee. I so appreciate the value that the MAA places on teaching, from offering *PRIMUS* to members to the publication of the *MAA Instructional Practices Guide*. These efforts recognize and showcase the importance of removing barriers to students' achievement. Still, we have a long way to go. Too many students continue to encounter roadblocks in learning mathematics. The population of people in the fields that use and practice mathematics is far from reflecting the diversity of the world we live in. When I joined the math department at San Francisco State University in 2015, I knew from my own experience as an SFSU masters' student eight years prior, that I was coming to join an extraordinary group of colleagues. My SFSU math colleagues have consistently defied the stereotypes about math professors. As teachers, they are creative, innovative, curious about their students, and willing to learn with and from one another. This has allowed me, as a teacher transitioning from a career in K–12 education and teacher professional development, to thrive and flourish as a college

educator. They have been eager to engage in study teams about the teaching of proofs or a calculus squad developing group worthy lessons. Their nomination of me for this award, and the letters of support of the undergraduate and graduate students I have been so fortunate to work with at SFSU, fills me with joy and inspires me to find new ways to engage with love in the humanizing work of teaching.

Biographical Sketch

Kimberly Seashore joined the math department at San Francisco State University (SFSU) in 2015. She earned a PhD in mathematics education in the SESAME program at University of California, Berkeley and an MA in mathematics from SFSU. She was a STaR fellow with the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) in 2016. Earlier in her career, Dr. Seashore taught both middle and high school mathematics. She also co-directed a professional development program for mathematics teachers, the Bay Area Mathematics Project, through the Lawrence Hall of Science. Her current research focuses on equity and social justice in the teaching of mathematics and the trajectories of professional growth for mathematics teachers. She lives in a cohousing community in Berkeley, CA with her husband, sons and dog.