



General Interest Seminar

Title: Pioneering Women in Mathematics in Ireland

Speaker: C. Mulcahy (Spelman)

Date: Tue 24th May 2016 at 4:00PM

Location: Ag 1.01

Abstract: The first Irish-born woman to get a PhD in pure mathematics in Ireland appears to have been Siobhan Vernon (nee O'Shea) from Cork, in 1964.

In the century before that at least 75 women in Ireland earned degrees in mathematics or mathematical physics, and/or became engaged in mathematical work of some sort. Some of these were educated privately, and several were British women who'd been denied the opportunity to be awarded university degrees closer to home.

Very few of these pioneering women had the chance to enter academia. Some of the early ones ended up as astronomers, many more as teachers. Even those who started relevant careers generally had them cut short if they married.

We'll highlight the more notable ones, from Cork, Dublin, Belfast, Galway and elsewhere, based in part on information buried in The Annals of Irish Mathematics at www.mathsireland.ie