GATHERING TO COMMEMORATE

Dr. Ruth Ingrid Michler

1967-2000

Gathering to Commemorate Dr. Ruth Michler, 1967-2000

Noon, November 8, 2000

Northeastern University's Sacred Space
201 Ell Building, 360 Huntingtion Avenue

Dr. Ruth Michler died tragically in an accident on Nov 1, 2000. She was an Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of North Texas, and was visiting the Northeastern University Mathematics Department for 2000-2001 under an NSF POWRE (midcareer) grant. We gather to celebrate her life, and the gift of her presence among us. This gathering is for the Northeastern University Mathematics Department, and persons in the Boston area who knew Ruth, or know the family.
Please refrain from taking pictures. This gathering is closed to reporters, and will not be recorded.

I. **Welcome**

II. **Remarks:** President Richard Freeland

III. **Ruth's scholarly life**: brief biography and remarks
Prof. Egon Schulte, Acting Chair, Mathematics Department

IV. **Testimony**:
Brief personal remarks about how Ruth has touched our lives. Please allow some time of silence after each testimony, so that we can hear more deeply.

V. **Presentation** of testimonial notebook to Prof. G. Michler
Dr. Hal Schenck and Professor Alex Suciu

VI. **Closing:** Prof. Chuu-Lian Terng, past president, AWM

There will be light refreshments afterward in the adjoining Reflection Room.

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Brief Biography: Ruth Ingrid Michler

   Dr. Ruth Michler was born on March 8, 1967 in Ithaca, New York; then, through high school, she lived principally in Germany, eventually in Essen. She went to the University of Oxford, UK, for undergraduate studies, and was affiliated with Bailliol College (Oxford). In 1987, she won a Jenkyns prize with an essay on "*Black Holes*" under the direction of Prof. Roger Penrose. She received her B.A. (Summa Cum Laude) at Oxford in 1988. She went to graduate school at the University of California (Berkeley), completing an M.A. in 1990, and a Ph.D. in 1993. Her Ph.D. dissertation was entitled "Hodge components of cyclic homology of affine hypersurfaces".

   After visiting Queen's University (Canada) for one year, she went to the University of North Texas in Denton as an Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor in May, 2000.

Dr. Michler's publications include 8 articles printed or in press in her specialized area of cyclic homology and singularities, and a book "Singularities in Algebraic and Analytic Geometry" coedited with Caroline Grant Melles, newly out as Volume 266 of American Mathematical Society's Contemporary Mathematics Series. She had interests including cryptography and the applications of mathematics. Her vita lists 25 talks, in locales throughout Europe and America, including Purdue University, Genova, and Antwerp. Her talks included "Invariants of Isolated Singularities" at the Special Session and Conference on "Syzygies and Geometry" at Northeastern University in October, 1995.

With Prof. Caroline Melles, she organized Special Sessions on "Singularities in Algebraic and Analytic Geometry" at the AMS Annual Meetings in 1999 and 2000, and at the San Francisco Meeting in October 2000. She was in the process of coorganizing two larger singularities conferences.

She received an NSF POWRE Fellowship to visit the Mathematics Department of Northeastern University in 2000-2001. In October 2000, she gave a talk entitled"Isolated Hypersurface Singularities and their Differentials" at the NU GASC seminar, and also at Boston University's Algebra Seminar. She had spoken with many of us in the Department, and was developing new results; on the blackboard of her office is a short proof of a new theorem, written October 31, 2000. We were enjoying her visit, and believe she was enjoying us. On November 1, 2000, Ruth died tragically after an accident with a construction vehicle, on a corner near the Department.

Ruth enjoyed music, including the symphony, and opera: she was a regular visitor to the Dallas Opera. She also was an avid long distance runner, who ran seven miles a day; she ran in most of the Boston Marathons, for the last five years. She was known for her energy, and the level of her commitment to all that she undertook.