

Michelle Wachs Galloway Ph.D.

Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award

Michelle Wachs Galloway is one of the world's leading combinatorialists. She received her B.S. and M.A. in mathematics from the City College of the City University of New York and her Ph.D. from the University of California at San Diego, under the supervision of Adriano Garsia. She joined the faculty of the University of Miami in 1977 and became a full professor in 1989.

Wachs Galloway's research contributions to algebraic and geometric combinatorics have been recognized in several ways, including a remarkable string of 12 continuous NSF individual investigator awards, dating from 1981 to 2020, almost certainly the longest such streak at the University. Her early work with Anders Björner of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm on the theory of lexicographic shellability was a pioneering contribution to the development of the field of topological combinatorics. More recently, in conjunction with John Shareshian of Washington University in St. Louis, she has made important explorations into the connections between chromatic symmetric functions in combinatorics and Hessenberg varieties in geometry.

Wachs Galloway was the inaugural Cooper Fellow of the College of Arts and Sciences in 2005, a member of the inaugural class of Fellows of the American Mathematical Society in 2012, and named a Simons Fellow in 2013. In 2015, the Department of Mathematics and the College of Arts and Sciences, with support from the NSF and NSA, honored her with the conference "Wachsfest: The Mathematics of Michelle Wachs." The conference website includes the following citation: "This conference is devoted to algebraic, enumerative, and topological combinatorics. ... With this conference, we want to honor Professor Michelle Wachs of the University of Miami, who is a leader in the field. Professor Wachs has made many important contributions to the mathematical community through her research and service, and has served as a role model for a large group of successful women in her field. The conference should provide inspiration to the next generation."

