Ranking for Mathematician

Name

Class

Date

Professor

Ranking for Mathematician

Mathematicians have made many important contributions and discoveries which have benefited society. There contributions range from developments in statistics, geometry, calculus, algebra, etc. Through these contributions, many amazing things have occurred in society. Because of math, astronauts have travelled to the moon and scientists have discovered the secrets of human DNA. Math gave rise to computers and the development of power sources. While the majority of renowned mathematicians are males, there have been many brilliant mathematicians who have been women. The following three mathematicians will be ranked based on highest to lowest ranking. Despite this ranking, each of these women made important contributions to the world of math.

**Sophie Germain**

 Sophie Germain is ranked first due to her courage to step out in a man’s world and make contributions to math. Germain lived during a time when women were not allowed to flex their intellectual capabilities. Despite being forbidden by her parents, Germain continued to develop her interest in math. Through her efforts, Germain contributed to the study of acoustics, elasticity, and the theory of numbers (Conrad, 2010). Even though Germain was isolated from the academic community because of her gender, this did not stop her from continuing her studies and contributing to the world of math.

**Evelyn Boyd Granville**

 Evelyn Boyd Granville made many contributions to mathematics. She earned her PhD in mathematics as the second African American women to ever reach this achievement. Granville went on to work on the NASA's Project Vanguard and Project Mercury. Her work centered on the analyzation and application of mathematics toward the development of missile fuses (Williams, 2008). Over the next few decades, she continued making contributions in space technology including computing orbits and working with the Apollo project. Through her contributions, advances in space travel were made.

**Mary Fairfax Somerville**

 Mary Fairfax Somerville was also born during a time when omen were rejected from academic circles but Somerville had the opportunity to grow up in privilege with parents who allowed her to pursue her academics. It was not until she became a widow; however, when Somerville was free her interest in mathematics. Somerville is considered the Queen of Science contributing not only to math but also to physical science, astronomy, and geography (O’Connor & Robertson, 1999). Somerville conducted experiments and published important works in science.

**Conclusion**

 Females have made many contributions to academics including in mathematics. Germain was placed in the number one spot because her efforts helped other women to have the courage to ignore societal norms and enter the world of math. For Granville, she was made second because she has made many contributions to math which have resulted in advances in space travel. Lastly, Somerville was also an important contributor to math but her greatest contributions were to science. All three women made important contributions to mathematics.

References

Conrad, C. (2010). Sophie Germain: 1776-1831. Retrieved March 23, 2016 from

http://www.math.wichita.edu/history/women/germain.html

O'Connor, J. J., & Robertson, E. F. (1999). Mary Fairfax Greig Somerville. Retrieved March 23,

2016, from http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Somerville.html

Williams, S. (2008). Evelyn Boyd Granville. Retrieved March 23, 2016 from

http://www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/PEEPS/granville\_evelynb.html