The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) has recognized two Stanford women as Honorable Mentions in the 29th Annual Alice T. Schafer Prize for Undergraduate Mathematics. Nitya Mani, and Nina Zubrilina, both seniors at Stanford University, will be presented at the AWM Reception and Awards Presentation at the 2019 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Baltimore, MD.

Nitya Mani (2019 Schafer Prize Honorable Mention) is a senior at Stanford University studying mathematics and computer science. While at Stanford, Nitya has been the recipient of the Barry Goldwater scholarship, Karl Menger prize from the AMS, and various prizes for her performance on the Putnam exam, Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, and outstanding talks and poster presentations.

Nitya participated in an REU at Emory University in the summer of 2016. Her work there resulted in two publications on infinite product expansions of modular forms, and shifted convolution L-functions for elliptic curves. Her mentor describes her as an “unusually deep” thinker with “unbounded energy and enthusiasm.” Nitya has also performed research with mentors in the Bay Area and at Stanford, resulting in several other publications in number theory and combinatorics. Nitya is also engaged in numerous teaching, outreach and leadership activities. One mentor describes her as “on the path to becoming a great researcher and leader in mathematics” and an “extraordinary young mathematician.”

Nina Zubrilina (2019 Schafer Prize Honorable Mention) is a senior mathematics major at Stanford University and is the recipient of a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. She has achieved remarkable research success as an undergraduate, having 6 solo-authored papers written or in preparation. Faculty describe Zubrilina as “in the league of [their] best graduate students, with "a high level of intellectual talent and internal drive," and being “a force for good.”

In 2016 and 2017, she performed research at the University of Minnesota, Duluth REU, resulting in three papers in analytic number theory and graph theory. She spent last summer at an internship at Microsoft Research New England studying linear programming bounds for the sphere packing problem, where her mentors said “she accomplished things [we] didn’t realize were on the horizon.” She is currently working on a project on phylogenetic trees whose “upside seems potentially unbounded,” according to her mentors.

The 29th Annual Alice T. Schafer Prize was awarded to Naomi Sweeting, a senior at the University of Chicago. AWM also recognizes Danielle Wang, a senior at MIT as Runner Up. Honorable Mentions include Nitya Mani and Nina Zubrilina (Stanford), as well as Lisa Yang, a junior at MIT.

In 1990, the Executive Committee of the AWM established the annual Alice T. Schafer Prize for Excellence in Mathematics by an Undergraduate Woman. The prize is named for Alice T. Schafer (1915–2009), one of the founders of AWM and its second president, who contributed greatly to women in mathematics throughout her career.