BUSHEY, Jewell (Hughes). March 13, 1896–May 5, 1989.

Jewell Constance Hughes was the the fifth of six children of Cora A. (Stanley) (b. 1867), originally from Missouri, and James R. Hughes (b. 1862), a native of Indiana. She was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, where her father was a merchant in 1900, an operator of a sawmill in 1910, and later a timberman and sawmill operator. The other children were Leslie Claire (1887–1971), Verda (1889–1985), Harry (b. 1892), Anna (1894–1975), and Donald (b. 1899).

Jewell Hughes attended public elementary school 1901–08 in Fayetteville and Fayetteville High School 1908–11. She entered the University of Arkansas in 1911 at age fifteen, became a member of Chi Omega social sorority, and graduated in 1915. She immediately received a scholarship at the University of Missouri, where she studied mathematics with E. R. Hedrick, O. D. Kellogg, and Louis Ingold in 1915–16 and received her master's degree in 1916.

Hughes taught for two years at the Columbia, Missouri, high school before returning to the University of Arkansas in 1918 as instructor of mathematics. She remained at Arkansas until 1930: as instructor 1918–24, assistant professor 1924–27, and associate professor 1927–30. She was granted a leave of absence for the academic year 1923–24 for study at the University of Chicago. Hughes studied under E. H. Moore, G. A. Bliss, L. E. Dickson, F. R. Moulton, and Mayme I. Logsdon at Chicago, first in the summer quarters 1920–23 and then in the following four quarters; she was a teaching fellow 1923–24. She wrote her dissertation in the calculus of variations before receiving her PhD magna cum laude in August 1924.

While continuing to teach at the University of Arkansas, Hughes did further study at the University of California in summer 1925 and at the University of Chicago summer 1927. She traveled in Europe in the summer of 1928. Later postdoctoral study included a course at Columbia University during 1934 and work at the University of Chicago in summer 1938.

In 1930 Hughes joined the faculty at Hunter College as assistant professor. She was assured at the time of the offer that she would be promoted to associate professor, her rank at the University of Arkansas, in a short time. An attitude she expressed at a dinner talk at the December 1927 mathematics meetings may partially explain why she left Arkansas. "Miss Jewell Hughes told of the opportunities for women in the teaching of mathematics in the United States, affirming and substantiating the statement that women have an opportunity equal with that of men in college and university positions unless it be in the higher university positions" (*Amer. Math. Monthly* 35 (1928): 103). Hughes remained at Hunter the rest of her career: as assistant professor 1930–39, as associate professor 1939–51, as professor 1951–66, and as professor emeritus after her retirement at age seventy.

On June 24, 1935, Jewell Hughes and Joseph Hobart Bushey, a colleague at Hunter College, were married at the home of her brother, Leslie C. Hughes, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. J. Hobart Bushey (December 19, 1903–November 25, 1976), originally from Baltimore, had received his BS from the Johns Hopkins University in 1924 and his MA and PhD in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1928 and 1930, respectively. He had also joined the mathematics department at

Hunter College as an assistant professor in 1930. He was promoted to associate professor in 1936 and to professor in 1953. He retired at age seventy.

In 1940 Jewell H. Bushey was elected chairman of the mathematics department at Hunter replacing Lao G. Simons who retired in June of that year. In addition to her teaching and administrative work, Bushey was extremely active in college service and in organizations at the college. She was a member of college committees concerned with the curriculum, with student-faculty relations, with faculty-board relations, and with adult education, among others. During 1943–50 she was chairman of the executive committee of the faculty. For the Hunter chapter of AAUP, she was treasurer part of 1936–37, vice president 1937–38, and president 1938–40. She was also president for several years of the Hunter Phi Beta Kappa chapter and was director at times of the local Pi Mu Epsilon chapter. During the summer of 1959 she directed an NSF institute for junior and senior high school teachers.

Jewell Hughes Bushey was active in a number of professional organizations at the national level, as well. As early as December 1925, when she was an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas, she gave the first of her many dinner speeches at joint meetings of the AMS and MAA. This first speech was a recollection of her recent time as a graduate student at the University of Chicago. A December 1929 speech was described as "replete with wit" (*Amer. Math. Monthly* 37 (1930): 107), while a 1951 speech was "about the past and present status of women mathematicians, stating certain theorems on this subject" (*Amer. Math. Monthly* 59 (1952): 208). The last dinner speech she made that was described in the *Monthly* was forty years after the first; this speech was made on behalf of her fellow charter members of the MAA at the fiftieth anniversary meeting in August 1965. She also spoke at the 1937 luncheon organized by Helen B. Owens that honored women pioneers in mathematical research in America.

Between her first and last speeches, Bushey served the MAA in various ways: she was on several program committees for national meetings, was chairman of the Metropolitan New York Section 1944–45, was national second vice president 1951–52, was governor from the Metropolitan New York Section 1957–60, and was on the committee on secondary school lecturers 1961–63. She was also an advocate for faculty and in 1940 was appointed to an AAUP committee to investigate the dismissal of five faculty members from Adelphi University. She was a member of the AAUP national council 1942–44 and of its executive committee 1942–43. She was a member of a joint committee of AAUP and the Association of American Colleges on tenure and retirement in 1943. She served as a national vice president of the AAUP 1944–46, was a member of the committee on the economic status of the profession 1948, was chairman of the nominating committee for national officers for 1948–50, and was on the board of the *Bulletin* of the AAUP in 1951.

In June 1949 Jewell Bushey was awarded an honorary LLD degree from the University of Arkansas, the second woman to receive that degree from Arkansas. The Jewell Hughes Bushey scholarship for proficiency in mathematics was established by the Hunter College Pi Mu Epsilon chapter the year she retired.

After J. Hobart Bushey retired from Hunter in 1972, the Busheys moved back to Fayetteville, Arkansas. He died four years later, shortly before his seventy-third birthday. Jewell Bushey continued to live in Fayetteville until her death at a local hospital in 1989 at age ninety-three. She was survived by a nephew in New Jersey.

Funeral services were held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and she was buried in Fairview Memorial Gardens in Fayetteville.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA (charter member), AAUP, AAUW, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Pi Mu Epsilon.

Thesis and dissertation:
1916 [Hughes, J. C.] Transcendentalism of curves and of numbers. MA thesis, University of Missouri. Typescript.
1924 [Hughes, J. C.] A problem of the calculus of variations in which one end-point is variable on a one parameter family of curves. PhD dissertation, University of Chicago, directed by Gilbert Ames Bliss. Typescript. Abstract: *University of Chicago. Abstracts of theses. Science series.* 3:31–35.

Publications:
1933 [Hughes, J. C.] Review of *Numerology*, by E. T. Bell. *Scripta Math.* 1:344–45.
1940 Review of *Science in a Tavern*, by C. S. Slichter. *Natl. Math. Mag.* 14:491–92.

Presentation:
Mathematics in the junior colleges. Presented as invited address to the MAA, Nashville, TN, 30 Dec 1927.

References to: AmMSc 5, 7–8, 9P–11P; WhoAmW 3–6.
"Professor Bushey Named." *New York Times*, 11 Jun 1940.
"Hunter Professor Honored." *New York Times*, 4 Jun 1949.
"Mathematics Chairman Is Elevated at Hunter." *New York Times*, 22 Apr 1951.
"Jewell Bushey." (Obituary) *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 6 May 1989.

Related manuscript material:
Jewell C. Hughes Bushey Papers (Manuscript Collection 1064), Special Collections Division, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Other sources: PhD dissertation vita 1924; Hunter College Archives; communication with University of Arkansas Special Collections; WhoAm 38 (Bushey, Joseph Hobart); US Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 AR, 1930 MI; SSDI.

Last modified: December 8, 2008.