

The Line

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Connecting supporters and beneficiaries of the American Mathematical Society

FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DON MCCLURE



Photo by Steve Schneider

An AMS donor recently reminded me of the time Paul Erdős gave a talented college student \$1,000 for his tuition bill. Erdős told him not to worry about paying it back but rather to do the same favor for someone else in the future.

Time and again, I see donors to the American Mathematical Society with that same spirit of helping others. They extend opportunity to the next person who will advance mathematics. As Executive Director, I want to express my deep

gratitude to all our donors for the many great things they make happen. They can feel very good about what their donations are supporting.

There are so many beneficiaries of philanthropy. Thanks to our donors' generosity, students can partake in AMS programs such as the Arnold Ross Lectures and travel grants. Early career mathematicians can build collaborative networks through Mathematics Research Communities. Unrestricted donations provide flexibility in meeting top priorities such as minimizing registration fees at sectional meetings and creating crucial connections between job seekers and employers through Mathjobs.org and the Employment Center at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

Our donors have helped build a vital endowment at the AMS. Having the resource of endowed funds gives us the freedom and ability to do things we couldn't otherwise do. The spendable income from the endowment is used to great purpose to support projects such as MathJax development, public lectures, and advocacy efforts in our Washington, D.C. office. A gift to the endowment reaps rewards for our scholarly community in perpetuity.

As I prepare for my retirement later this year, I do so with the confidence that the future of the AMS is bright. As a scientific society, we will continue to meet the professional needs and challenges of the mathematics community, sustained by the generosity and passion of AMS donors.

A LIFE AND LEGACY DEDICATED TO MATHEMATICS



Photo courtesy of Teri Banerjee

Franklin P. and Marilyn Peterson

Franklin P. Peterson's work of advancing mathematics and the American Mathematical Society continues by way of his estate gift to the AMS, received upon the passing of his wife, Marilyn Peterson (1930–2014).

Franklin Peterson (1930–2000) was known by many as a collegial and enthusiastic supporter of mathematics, as well as a proponent of culinary delights. A well-traveled man, Franklin blended his interests together in engaging ways.

His passion for mathematics fueled his exceptional service. As AMS Treasurer for twenty-five years, he guided the AMS to the financial security that benefits us today, helping to develop the Economic Stabilization Fund and other important structures.

Marilyn Peterson, née Rutz, worked in the MIT Library for many years. She traveled to many places with Franklin, and stayed active and upbeat well into her later years.

The AMS is grateful for Franklin's service and philanthropy and for Marilyn's faithful deliverance of his estate gift. His generosity and forward-thinking will benefit the mathematics community for years to come.

MATHEMATICAL REVIEWS NOW SUPPORTS NATIVE SCRIPT



Mathematical Reviews now supports native script in author profiles. This new feature enhances author identification and makes

visible the many backgrounds within our community. Cyrillic, Brahmic, Chinese, Greek – any characters in Unicode (UTF-8) are now available. To update your profile, go to www.ams.org/mathscinet/MRAuthorID. We thank Donald E. and Jill Knuth for their vision and charitable support in making this feature available.



HELPING THE NATION'S TOP MATHEMATICS STUDENTS SHINE IN SEATTLE



Photo by Steve Schneider

From left, Simon Singh, Kenneth A. Ribet, Ankan Bhattacharya, Ken Ono, and Mike Breen at 2016 JMM WWTBAM game in Seattle

Thanks in part to donor and sponsor support, ten of the nation's top high school mathematics students competed in *Who Wants to Be a Mathematician* (WWTBAM) at the 2016 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle, WA.



Photo by Steve Schneider

Kelly Zhang competes in the final round.

Online Community Sponsor Art of Problem Solving (AoPS) helped publicize the game and hosted preparatory tools on their website. Technology Sponsor Maplesoft™ provided electronic testing that enabled over 2,000 students to take qualifying tests. Prizes were provided by AoPS, Maplesoft, Texas Instruments, John Wiley & Sons, Springer, the AMS, and individual donors. WWTBAM is especially grateful to an anonymous donor for a generous and ongoing commitment.

Ankan Bhattacharya, a junior from Troy, MI, surged to victory, answering most final round questions before host Mike Breen was able to finish reading them. Ankan won the top prize of \$10,000, \$5,000 of which goes to his school's math department and \$5,000 of which goes to Ankan directly.

The game saw an increase in female contestants, with Kelly Zhang from North Carolina, Casey Zhang (no relation) from Colorado, and Allison Wang from California.

After the game, audience and contestants were treated to a special lecture entitled, "Fermat's Last Theorem versus The Simpsons" by Dr. Simon Singh, math and science writer and winner of the 2016 JPBM Communications Award for Expository and Popular Books. Singh was an enthusiastic spectator of the game as well:

"It is great to see so many teenagers taking pride in their mathematical skills and battling against each other so brilliantly and politely. ...well done to all of them."

WWTBAM looks forward to working with all the sponsors and donors to make the 2017 national game exceptional as well.



Photo by Steve Schneider

Simon Singh delivers lecture, "Fermat's Last Theorem versus The Simpsons"

CENTENNIAL FELLOWS SAY THANK YOU FOR GREAT YEAR OF RESEARCH

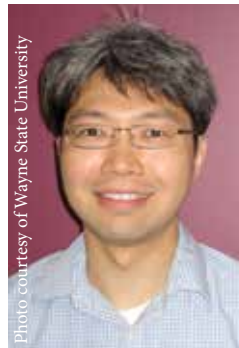


Photo courtesy of Wayne State University

Kyungyong Lee

Your gift to the AMS Centennial Fellowship Fund is providing a fruitful year of research for Professors Kyungyong Lee of University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Christian Schnell of Stony Brook University. It is also generating a beneficial ripple-effect for their collaborators and fields of study. Lee and Schnell have spent the academic year focusing on research and attending various mathematics meetings.

"It has allowed me to attend a number of conferences including the AMS sectional meeting in Fargo, ND. I was also able to visit the Korea Institute for Advanced Study, and from this trip I obtained a new way of thinking in my research direction."

—Kyungyong Lee

"I stayed at Ecole Polytechnique to talk with Claude Sabbah and Thomas Krämer, and at FRIAS in Freiburg to talk with Stefan Kebekus and Mihai Paun. I went to Kyoto to talk with Takuro Mochizuki. This semester, we [also] have a program about Hodge theory at the Simons Center."

—Christian Schnell

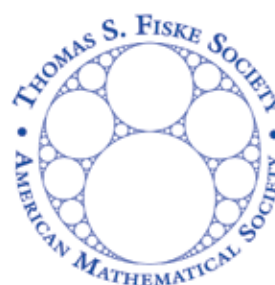


Photo courtesy of Christian Schnell

Christian Schnell

Both Professors Lee and Schnell express their deep gratitude to supporters of the Centennial Fellowship Fund. The AMS joins them in thanking more than one thousand people who have made a gift to this fund during the past two years.

NEW FISKE SOCIETY MEMBERS WILL SUSTAIN MATHEMATICS OF THE FUTURE



In 2015, eight people let the AMS know of their intention to support mathematics in the future by including the Society in their estate plans. A warm welcome is extended to new members of the Thomas S. Fiske Society: Richard A. Baum, Robert L. Bryant, Robert J. Daverman, Robert T. Kocembo, Carole B. Lacampagne, Zhaorong Liu, Jean-Eudes Villeneuve, and Susan Schwartz Wildstrom. Named for AMS founder Thomas S. Fiske, the Fiske Society celebrates members with special mailings and invitations to AMS events. For more information, visit www.ams.org/fiske.



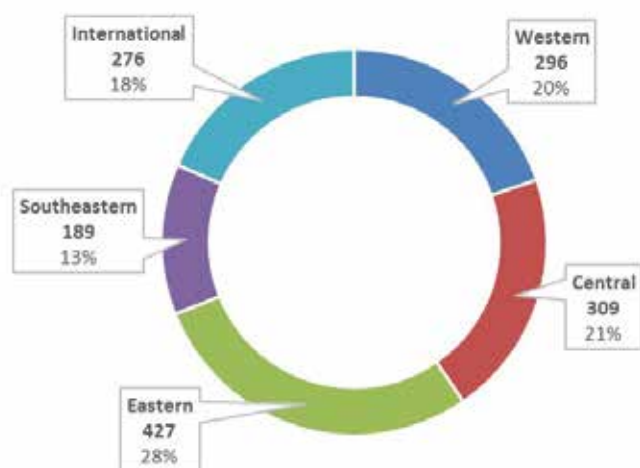
AMS DONORS AROUND THE WORLD SUPPORT MATHEMATICS

Thank you to the 1,497 people who donated to the AMS in 2015! The year was successful in many ways.

Where are AMS donors from?

AMS donors hail from around the globe. The chart below shows the distribution of donors from the four U.S. geographic sections (as determined by AMS Meetings & Conferences) and international donors.

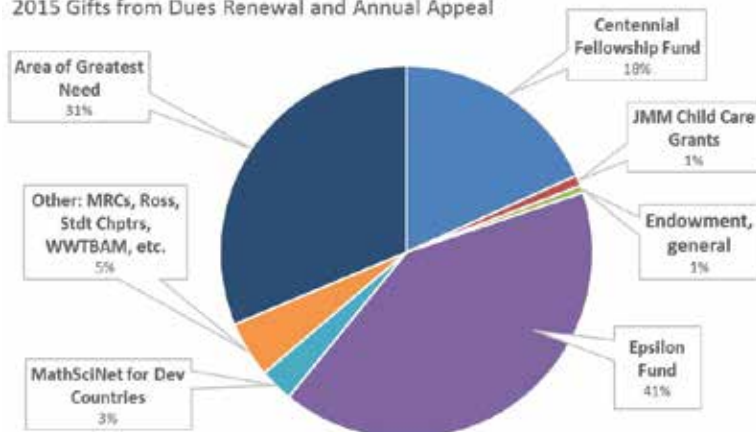
2015 Donors: Geographic Distribution



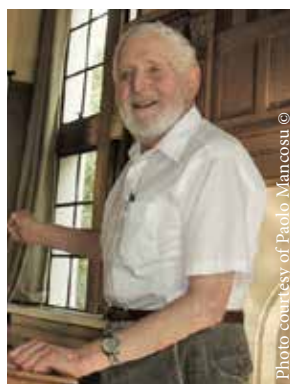
How do donors direct their gifts?

93% of AMS donors give when they renew their membership and/or in response to the annual appeal mailing. The chart below shows what they chose to support in 2015.

2015 Gifts from Dues Renewal and Annual Appeal



MATHEMATICAL LIVES - WILLIAM CRAIG



William Craig

When William Craig (1918–2016) visited with AMS staff in Berkeley this past fall, he was nearing his 97th birthday. He was active, independent, and full of questions regarding the summer math programs supported by the Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars. Himself a seminal figure in mathematical logic, Professor Craig supported young mathematics students throughout his life. He made several generous gifts to the Epsilon Fund for Young Scholars over

the years and the AMS is grateful for his commitment.

Craig's own studies as a youth began in a grammar school and humanist gymnasium in Nuremberg. He emigrated from Germany to the United States in 1937, enrolled in Cornell University and graduated in 1940 with majors in philosophy and physics. Graduate education waited while he served in the U.S. Army; after the war, Craig completed his Ph.D. in philosophy at Harvard in 1951, under logician Willard Van Orman Quine.

His academic life began at Penn State University. During that time he wrote his most influential works; he would impact model theory, proof theory, and more. He moved to the Philosophy Department of UC Berkeley in 1960. Professor Craig was known for his influence on several fields in the mathematical sciences, and for his welcoming and supportive personality. He will be warmly remembered by many.

DONORS HELP SCHOLARS ATTEND CRUCIAL MEETINGS



Photo by Steve Schneider

Attendees of 2016 JMM

Your gift to JMM Child Care Grants helped fifty-eight scholars attend the 2016 Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle. The grant program, co-sponsored by the AMS and the Mathematical Association of America, is now in its second successful year. Small grants of \$250 allow families flexibility with child care so that the parent can attend the JMM. Thank you for your support!

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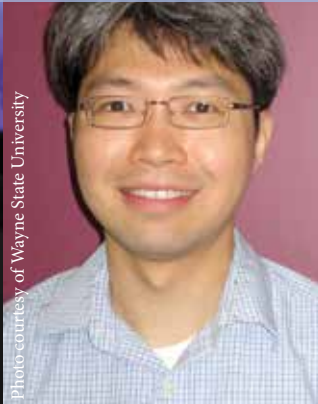
AMS News Inside!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE of **The Line:**

**THANK YOU FROM
AMS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**CHECKING IN WITH
CENTENNIAL FELLOWS**



**PETERSON ESTATE GIFT
WILL HELP MANY**



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