

A QUARTERLY  
 PUBLICATION TO INFORM  
 MEMBERS ABOUT  
 SOCIETY ACTIVITIES.  
 THIS ISSUE COVERS  
 WHAT'S NEW  
 IN THE MEETINGS  
 AND CONFERENCES  
 DEPARTMENT  
 OF THE AMS.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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## AMS OFFICES:

PROVIDENCE, RI  
 ANN ARBOR, MI  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

## The Long Tradition of AMS Meetings

The first official Annual Meeting of the AMS was held December 28, 1894, the year the Society was nationalized and renamed the American Mathematical Society. (The Society was founded in 1888 as the New York Mathematical Society.) The Society's officials were inspired by the International Congress of Mathematicians that had been held in 1893 at the Chicago Columbian Exposition. That first Annual Meeting included three scientific items on the program: the address of the retiring president, Emory McClintock, "The Past and Future of the Society"; a paper by Ralph A. Roberts, "On a certain class of canonical forms"; and another by M. W. Haskell, "A new definition of hyperbolic functions".

The early annual meetings were small (not until the 1901 meeting did attendance pass 50), but soon after that the number and diversity of presentations grew and the number of days extended: even back then attendees could not avoid the conflicts of a full program. By 1911 the AMS had 668 members and the annual meeting lasted two days, with 64 in attendance and 26 papers presented.

## San Diego in January

Mathematicians from institutions large and small, U.S. and international, graduate level through retirement will convene in San Diego for the annual Joint Mathematics Meetings of the AMS and Mathematical Association of America (MAA). We urge AMS members to use this opportunity to participate—to keep abreast of current research in all fields of mathematics, to network with colleagues, to renew acquaintances, to forge new friendships and associations, and to acknowledge outstanding individuals at the Joint Prize

Session. A survey of JMM 2001 attendees (in New Orleans) shows that mathematicians from across the spectrum have attended multiple JMMs in the past five years: 19% of the respondents came for each of the past 5 years, 40% reported they intended to come to San Diego (11% more if they can get funding), and 77% reported that the meetings met their expectations—all testaments to how professionally and personally important these meetings are to the participants.



### CALL TO MATHEMATICIANS

*It is proposed by some recent students of the graduate school of Columbia College to establish a mathematical society for the purpose of preserving, supplementing, and utilizing the results of their mathematical studies. It is believed that the meetings of the society may be rendered interesting by the discussion of mathematical subjects, the criticism of current mathematical literature, and the solution of problems proposed by its members and correspondents. It is also intended that original investigations to which members may be led shall be brought before the society at its meetings.*

**November 24, 1888**

**Thomas Scott Fiske, Edward Lincoln Stabler,  
 and Harold Jacoby**

To this day the AMS sponsors meetings and conferences that provide an environment that is professionally stimulating, well organized, and affordable, and at the same time gives participants the opportunity to network informally with colleagues.

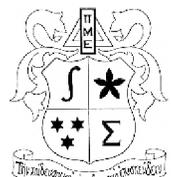
**READ MORE** A great source of history and personal anecdotes is *A Century of Mathematical Meetings*, edited by Bettye Anne Case (AMS, 1996). This can be ordered on the AMS Bookstore at [www.ams.org/bookstore-getitem/item=mtgm](http://www.ams.org/bookstore-getitem/item=mtgm).

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**Make note:** This 108th Annual Meeting of the AMS will take place from Sunday through Wednesday (instead of the usual Wednesday through Saturday). AMS members are entitled to a lower registration fee if they register before December 10, 2001. You can register conveniently online at [http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2049\\_reghsg.html](http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2049_reghsg.html).

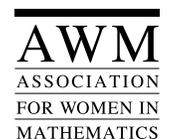
## San Diego in January



**AMATYC**



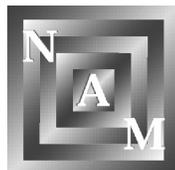
**PME**



**AWM**



**SIAM**



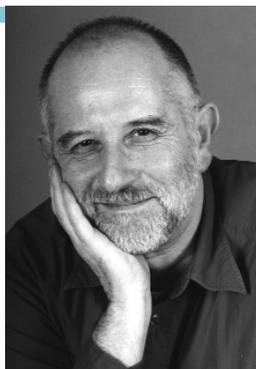
**NAM**

### Many Associations Will Gather

Many organizations, institutes, and math departments will have a presence at the annual Joint Mathematics Meetings, offering sessions and hosting events: AMATYC, ARUME, MER, MSRI, NSF, and the Young Mathematicians Network. Other organizations besides the AMS and MAA also meet at the JMM: ASL, AWM, MER, NAM, PME, RMMC, and SIAM. These varied groups and individuals meet both officially and informally; and seeing them in this venue is a positive reminder that although these associations have specialized missions and members, there is much overlap amongst them—that all the components ARE the mathematical community.

### The AMS Josiah Willard Gibbs Lecture

This honorary lectureship was established in 1923 and is traditionally given the first evening of the annual meeting, when no other events may be scheduled. The 2002 lecture will uphold the original mandate of the Gibbs Lecture—to host a talk that is accessible and open to the general public. This year's Gibbs Lecturer will be Michael V. Berry, who is a Royal Society Research Professor at Bristol University, Professor-at-Large at Cornell University, and Visiting Professor at the Technion in Israel. He was awarded the Wolf Prize in 1998 and was knighted in 1996. Berry is a dynamic presenter; some of you may recall his talk at the AMS Mathematical Challenges of the 21st Century meeting at UCLA in 2000.



*Michael V. Berry*

**The Gibbs Lecture will take place Sunday, January 6, 8:30–9:30 p.m.**

### The Scientific Program

AMS and MAA associate secretaries for San Diego are John L. Bryant, AMS, and James J. Tattersall, MAA. They accepted presentation abstracts and set the JMM program, which includes Short Courses (held on the two days before the annual meeting), minicourses, Invited Addresses, Special Sessions, panel discussions, contributed papers, and colloquium lectures. Various committees have input into all facets of the program. For the national meetings, complimentary copies of the *Abstracts* are available upon request to any registered meeting participant.

### The AMS Member Banquet

New and long-time AMS members look forward to the annual Member Banquet—always the last evening of the Joint Mathematics Meetings. The number of banquet attendees has grown from 125 at the first banquet in 1989 to a high of 350 in recent years; members mingle and enjoy an evening of good food and wine, a greeting from the AMS executive director, and the opportunity to acknowledge the longest-term member in attendance. In recent years, honorees have included William Duren, Jr., Alice Schafer, Andrew Gleason, and Saunders Mac Lane. The 2002 AMS Member Banquet will include a talk by Hendrick W. Lenstra, Jr., “Pi in de Pieterskerk.”

**READ MORE** Read about Bill Duren's 2001 banquet honor for 71 years of AMS membership at [www.ams.org/ams/jmm2001-highlights.html#billduren](http://www.ams.org/ams/jmm2001-highlights.html#billduren).

### About the Exhibits

JMM surveys show that attendees see the exhibits as a highlight of the annual meetings. Three out of four attendees visit the exhibits a minimum of once a day, and over 71% are faculty who need to know about and see the most current textbooks to select for course use. The exhibitors consider JMM as a prime opportunity to meet potential authors and to display publications, software, games, and programs; many offer special meeting prices. The exhibits will be open Sunday noon–5:30 p.m., Monday and Tuesday 9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., and Wednesday 9:00 a.m.–noon.

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday, January 6

5:00–6:00 p.m. - Graduate Student Reception  
5:30–7:30 p.m. - Mathematical Sciences Institutes Reception

6:00–7:00 p.m. - Reception for First-Time Participants  
9:30 p.m. - AWM Reception after the Gibbs Lecture

### Monday, January 7

4:25 p.m. - Joint Prize Session and Reception  
6:30 p.m. - MER Reception and Dinner

### Tuesday, January 8

5:00–6:30 p.m. - Reception for Mathematicians in Business, Industry & Government  
5:30–8:00 p.m. - NAM Banquet

6:00–7:00 p.m. - *Mathematical Reviews* Reception  
8:30–10:30 p.m. - MAA Project NEXT Reception

### Wednesday, January 9

6:30 p.m. - AMS Member Reception and Banquet



## Behind the Scenes

Many members don't realize that the staff of the AMS Meetings & Conferences Department plans and budgets for meetings *five years in advance!* The Joint Mathematics Meetings have grown significantly in size over the years, and convention centers require booking contracts years prior. So the AMS Meetings director, the secretary of the AMS, and the associate secretary of the MAA go on site visits in various regions of the country years in advance, checking the quality, location, spaces, costs, and services of hotels and convention centers. Future JMMs are as follows: 2003 in Baltimore, 2004 in Phoenix, 2005 in Atlanta, 2006 in San Antonio, and 2007 in New Orleans. The JMMs with the largest number of participants were the 2000 meetings in Washington, DC, and the 2001 meetings in New Orleans.

Within the AMS Meetings & Conferences Department, the Service Bureau handles registration, housing, commercial exhibits, ticket sales, administrative support, materials to ship to the meeting site, meeting promo-

tions, and posting the most up-to-date information on the Web. The Meetings and Conferences group handles all the work around the scientific sessions, working with the AMS and MAA associate secretaries, as well as working with all logistics, audio-visual, abstracts, and committees that meet at the JMM, ordering all food and preparing the program book and abstract book.

## Did You Know?

In San Diego there will be about 4,900 individuals reserving a total of about 10,000 overnight stays; that equals about 2,400 hotel sleeping rooms. The JMM brings in about \$3 million dollars to the city where it is being held. This includes the sleeping rooms, convention center expenses, food and beverages at the hotel and in the city, audio-visual, etc.

**READ MORE** The October issue of *Notices of the AMS* includes the JMM 2002 program. See [www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2049\\_intro.html](http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/2049_intro.html) for new and updated program information and for additional social events.

## AMS Sectional Meetings

AMS Sectional Meetings usually take place on a university campus over two consecutive days (usually a Friday and Saturday or a Saturday and Sunday) and are arranged by the associate secretary in cooperation with the host university. The scientific program, consisting of invited speakers, Special Sessions, contributed paper sessions, and occasionally symposia, is determined by a program committee for each section. Although the AMS Meetings & Conferences Department staff facilitates the registration for sectionals, these meetings could not take place without the services of reliable mathematicians on the faculty who take on local arrangements—arranging meeting, registration and exhibit space, audio-visual equipment, and any special events.

**"Sectional Meetings attract a lot of interest. More than 2,100 people registered for the eight sectionals last year. Institutions provide a great service to the community by hosting these events, and because of the widely distributed workload—not just AMS staff support but also the many Special Session organizers—hosting requires far less effort than putting together a conference from the ground up."**

**Bob Daverman, Secretary of the AMS**

**READ MORE** See [www.ams.org/amsmtgs/sectional.html](http://www.ams.org/amsmtgs/sectional.html) for a list of upcoming AMS Sectional Meetings with program and registration information.

## The Meetings & Conferences Website

The *Notices of the AMS* publishes meeting information, but members should bookmark the Meetings website for the most current information, posted well before the printed issue of *Notices* is available. Here you will find details for organizers, how to submit abstracts, deadlines for registration and housing, programs, events, travel details, and online registration forms. You can also learn more about Joint International Mathematics Meetings, the Arnold Ross Lectures for High School Students, and see the calendar of other mathematical meetings worldwide.

**READ MORE** Each meeting's program, deadlines, registration, and logistical information are at [www.ams.org/meetings](http://www.ams.org/meetings).

## Summer Research Conferences

The AMS, Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS) and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) will again jointly sponsor the annual Summer Research Conferences (SRCs) in June and July on the bucolic campus of Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA.



The conferences emulate the scientific structure of those held at Oberwolfach, and the Organizing Committee disperses NSF travel grants to participants—leaders and junior-level researchers. A survey at the 2001 SRC reveals that there was an average attendance of 50 at each session; that attendees enjoyed participating in such a high-level, targeted conference; and that they also enjoyed the opportunity to mingle with colleagues informally in such a setting. Here are some comments from participants at recent SRCs:

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*"The meeting was very useful in pointing out the problems and the lines of research that the community working in my field regards as important in our day. In this sense it had and will have a real impact on my research."*

◆ ◆ ◆  
*"The conference allowed me to make direct contact with some of the leading experts in my field."*

◆ ◆ ◆  
*"I learned a lot, made valuable contacts, and made progress on my research."*

◆ ◆ ◆  
*"I did not collaborate much before, but started extensive collaboration with some of the participants after the conference."*

**READ MORE** Proposals for the 2003 SRC are due February 1, 2002: see [www.ams.org/meetings/topics.html](http://www.ams.org/meetings/topics.html) for guidelines, and see [www.ams.org/meetings/srcbroc.html](http://www.ams.org/meetings/srcbroc.html) for more logistical information and how to register.

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## AMS MEMBER NEWSLETTER

# 2002 UPCOMING AMS MEETINGS

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>January 6-9</b>   | Joint Mathematics Meetings, Convention Center, San Diego, CA   |
| <b>March 1-3</b>     | Central Section Meeting, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI   |
| <b>March 8-10</b>    | Southern Section Meeting, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA   |
| <b>May 3-5</b>       | Eastern Section Meeting, Centre de Recherches Mathématiques, Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada  |
| <b>June 12-16</b>    | Joint International Meeting of the AMS and the Unione Matematica Italiana, Pisa, Italy                         |
| <b>June 20-22</b>    | Western Section Meeting, Portland State University, Portland, OR   |
| <b>June-July</b>     | AMS-IMS-SIAM Summer Research Conferences in the Mathematical Sciences, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA |
| <b>October 5-6</b>   | Eastern Section Meeting, Northeastern University, Boston, MA   |
| <b>October 12-13</b> | Central Section Meeting, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI  |
| <b>October 26-27</b> | Western Section Meeting, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT  |
| <b>November 9-10</b> | Southern Section Meeting, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL   |

# 2003

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|----------------------|--|
| <b>January 15-18</b> | Joint Mathematics Meetings, Convention Center, Baltimore, MD |
|----------------------|--|