AMS MEMBER
FALL 2004
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION TO INFORM MEMBERS ABOUT SOCIETY ACTIVITIES. THIS ISSUE COVERS AMS OUTREACH TO MATH DEPARTMENTS.

AMS Outreach to Math Departments

In addition to programs for individuals in the mathematics profession, the Society has a variety of programs aimed at math departments and department chairs.

New AMS Award for Exemplary Programs or Achievement in a Mathematics Department

This prize was established in 2004 to recognize a department that has distinguished itself by undertaking an unusual or particularly effective program of value to the mathematics community, internally or in relation to the rest of society. Examples might include departments that:

- run a notable minority outreach program,
- institute an unusually effective industrial mathematics internship program,
- promote mathematics so successfully that a large fraction of the university's undergraduate population majors in mathematics,
- make some form of innovation in research support to faculty and/or graduate students, or
- create a special and innovative environment for some aspect of mathematics research.

Mathematical sciences departments in North America that offer at least a bachelor's degree are eligible. One or more individuals may submit a letter of nomination, and writers may nominate their institution. The prize is $1,200. The AMS plans to make the initial award at the January 2006 Joint Mathematics Meetings.

Read more To learn more, contact the Office of the AMS Secretary at **www.ams.org/secretary/contact.html**.

Early Career Profiles Project

The AMS has embarked on a Sloan Foundation-funded project to develop a network of mathematical sciences departments that will systematically provide profiles of their recent bachelor's-level alumni. Each participating department will place alumni profiles on a departmental computer server, and the AMS will place links to the profiles from the AMS Careers web page at **www.ams.org/careers**. This method of building a bank of career profiles of math science majors will fulfill a need of students and will be useful for departments in tracking majors, counseling future students, and discussing curricula. The initial group of U.S. mathematics departments—urban and rural, public and private, bachelor's-, master's- and doctoral-granting—has been recruited to participate in the network. Alumni will be asked a standard set of questions so that the profiles will include consistent information. The project is scheduled for release in 2005.

Read more Information for Mathematics Department Leaders is at **www.ams.org/outreach/mathdept.html.**

Publication of Doctoral Degrees Conferred

Each February *Notices of the AMS* publishes the **Doctoral Degrees Conferred**, providing visibility to both the new Ph.D.'s (with their name and thesis title) and the departments in which they received their degrees.

Read more Doctoral Degrees Conferred is at **www.ams.org/employment/degrees.html**, and Programs for Graduate Students and Recent Ph.D.'s is at **www.ams.org/outreach/gradinfo.html**.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New AMS Award for Exemplary Programs or Achievement in a Mathematics Department

Early Career Profiles Project

Publication of Doctoral Degrees Conferred

Workshop for Department Chairs

For Undergraduate Students

Institutional Membership

Surveys

Employment Services

Public Awareness

Math in the Media and *Feature Column*

Workshop for Department Chairs

The AMS's Washington, DC, office organizes and hosts a one-day Workshop for Department Chairs. The workshop is held in the same location as and just prior to the Joint Math Meetings each January. Topics include personnel challenges, departmental communications, and departmental leadership. The 2005 workshop will be held on January 4 in Atlanta, Georgia.

"I have attended two of these workshops and found them extremely valuable. In addition to providing 'group therapy' for me as department chair, I picked up a number of ideas from other chairs that I have implemented in my own department."

*— **David Manderscheid**, University of Iowa*

"I have attended the Annual Math Chairs Workshop every year for the past six years, and I have found the experience and participation very rewarding. I get a lot of useful information by talking directly to chairs of other departments and from the discussions of the workshop—information that you simply cannot get by scanning web pages of departments."

*— **Krishnaswami Alladi**, University of Florida*

"As a new department head with six months in the position and a semester's experience three years ago (as an interim head of department), I found the Workshop for Department Chairs extremely useful. In the workshop experienced chairs and previous chairs (including a present dean and high-ranking officeholders at the AMS and the NSF) talked about the whole range of issues which a chair of a present-day mathematics department has to deal with: the faculty, the administrative staff, the university at large, students, financial issues, national agencies, etc. Since the workshop, I have recalled to myself and to the faculty in our department various suggestions and strategies that were discussed at the workshop."

*— **Michael Neumann**, University of Connecticut*

For Undergraduate Students

The AMS maintains a web page of highly selective websites aimed at undergraduates who are considering a major in mathematics or who are well on their way toward a bachelor's degree in math.

- ***Considering Graduate School in the Mathematical Sciences?*** includes links to *Assistantships & Graduate Fellowships*, a report on current employment trends in the mathematical sciences, NSF's website of graduate research fellowships, and more.
- ***Summer Programs*** links to a list of all the REUs.
- ***Semester Programs*** links to information about semesters at Penn State, Moscow, and Budapest and also links to a relevant article in *Notices of the AMS*.

The web page also has extensive links to ***Clubs***, ***Conferences***, ***Events***, ***Online Journals***, ***Competitions***, ***Prizes***, ***Honorary Societies***, ***Careers***, ***Job Internships***, and ***websites with mathematics problems***.

Reactions from some of the students who participated in the spring 2004 **Math in Moscow** semester:

Photo courtesy of Murray Stokely.

"Thanks again for your generous support. This is a wonderful program, and I have told all my professors and many students in the U.S. about this program in the hope that more will apply to take advantage of this great opportunity."

*— **Murray Stokely**, California State University, Hayward*

"The spring I spent in Moscow was a time that will remain with me the rest of my life. I had the opportunity to live in another culture, try new things, practice another language, meet many new friends, and learn mathematics in an excellent university. I am very grateful to the AMS for allowing me to have what will be one of the greatest experiences of my life."

*— **Jeff Taft**, University of Arizona*

"I believe my semester abroad in Moscow was by far my most mathematically interesting semester yet. I took courses in algebraic geometry, commutative and homological algebra, representation theory, Russian language, and the history of mathematics and science. All of my professors and teaching assistants were excellent."

*— **Owen Baker**, Cornell University*

Read more Resources for undergraduates are at **www.ams.org/outreach/undergrad.html**. Department chairs may request bulk quantities of the brochure *Resources for Undergraduates* at emp-info@ams.org.

Institutional Membership

The AMS currently has approximately 400 institutional members in the U.S.—mainly departments in the mathematical sciences—whose institutional dues entitle them to:

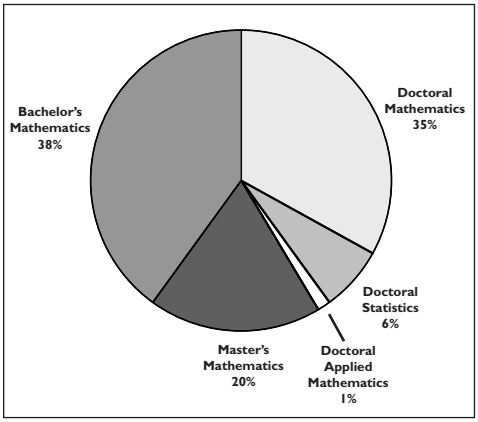
- **Complimentary subscriptions** to *Notices of the AMS*, *Abstracts*, and *Bulletin of the AMS*.
- **Nominees.** All regularly enrolled graduate students may be appointed individual AMS members; in departments that do not have a graduate program in mathematics, up to four individuals may be nominated for membership.
- **Free copies** of the annual *Combined Membership List*, *Mathematical Sciences Professional Directory*, and *Assistantships & Graduate Fellowships*.
- **Discounts** on AMS publications and the Database Fee for *Mathematical Reviews*.

Institutional Membership dues are based on a number of factors, including faculty size, number of full-time students, and number of papers reviewed in *Mathematical Reviews*.

Read more Find more about Institutional Membership at **www.ams.org/membership/institutional.html**.

Surveys

Initiated in 1957, the **Annual Survey of the Mathematical Sciences** collects information about departments, faculty, and students in the mathematical sciences at four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. Guidance is provided by the Data Committee, a joint committee of the AMS, the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and the Mathematical Association of America. The Annual Survey is published in three issues of *Notices of the AMS* and includes reports on new doctoral recipients (with special analyses of gender, race/ethnicity, and citizenship) and their employment status; salary data for tenured and tenure-track faculty; doctoral degrees conferred; starting salaries of new doctoral recipients; and instructional programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including data on fall course enrollments, majors, graduate students, and departmental faculty.



Percentage of Total Full-Time Faculty by Highest Degree-Granting Department, Fall 2003

Read more The Third Report of the 2003 Survey is in the September issue of *Notices of the AMS* (on page 901) and online at **www.ams.org/notices/200408/third-report-notices.pdf**. Links to the most recent and older survey reports are at **www.ams.org/outreach**.

Employment Services

Many departments take advantage of the various AMS or AMS-hosted outlets to announce open positions in their departments—outlets that reach arguably the largest number of mathematicians in the world:

- **MathJobs (www.mathjobs.org)**, where departments can conduct their recruiting entirely online, without setting up and maintaining their own servers and databases;
- ***Notices of the AMS* (www.ams.org/notices)**, in which over 29,000 readers worldwide see classified and display ads;
- ***Employment in the Mathematical Sciences*** (in print and online at **https://www.ams.org/eims**), where employers can submit and revise job postings;
- **Employment Center (www.ams.org/emp-reg)**, a joint program of the AMS and MAA, organized and staffed by the AMS at the Joint Mathematics Meetings, where department hiring personnel can conduct computer- or employer-scheduled interviews in an organized setting with applicants who have preregistered for the service.

Read more See resources on employment and career services at **www.ams.org/employment** and survey reports on employment and hiring at **www.ams.org/employment/surveyreports.html**.

Public Awareness

The AMS Public Awareness Office produces a number of posters for math departments to post on bulletin boards to attract interest and generate discussion. Among them are:

Mathematical Moments: A series of 8.5" x 11" posters designed to promote appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in science, nature, technology, and human culture. Each year a new set of eight is mailed to department chairs in the U.S. There are now forty available for anyone to download and print at **www.ams.org/mathmoments**.

"Wonderful job! Colorful, catchy, and designed to attract the attention of the passerby, these posters will be up outside my office."

What Can I Do with a Math Degree? This poster was created in response to undergraduate students who ask us that very question. A limited number are available upon request (paoffice@ams.org), but an 8.5" x 11" version is available for anyone to download and print at **www.ams.org/outreach/what-mathdegree.pdf.**

Read more See the Public Awareness Office website at **www.ams.org/public-awareness** for more information on these and other public awareness resources for math department faculty.

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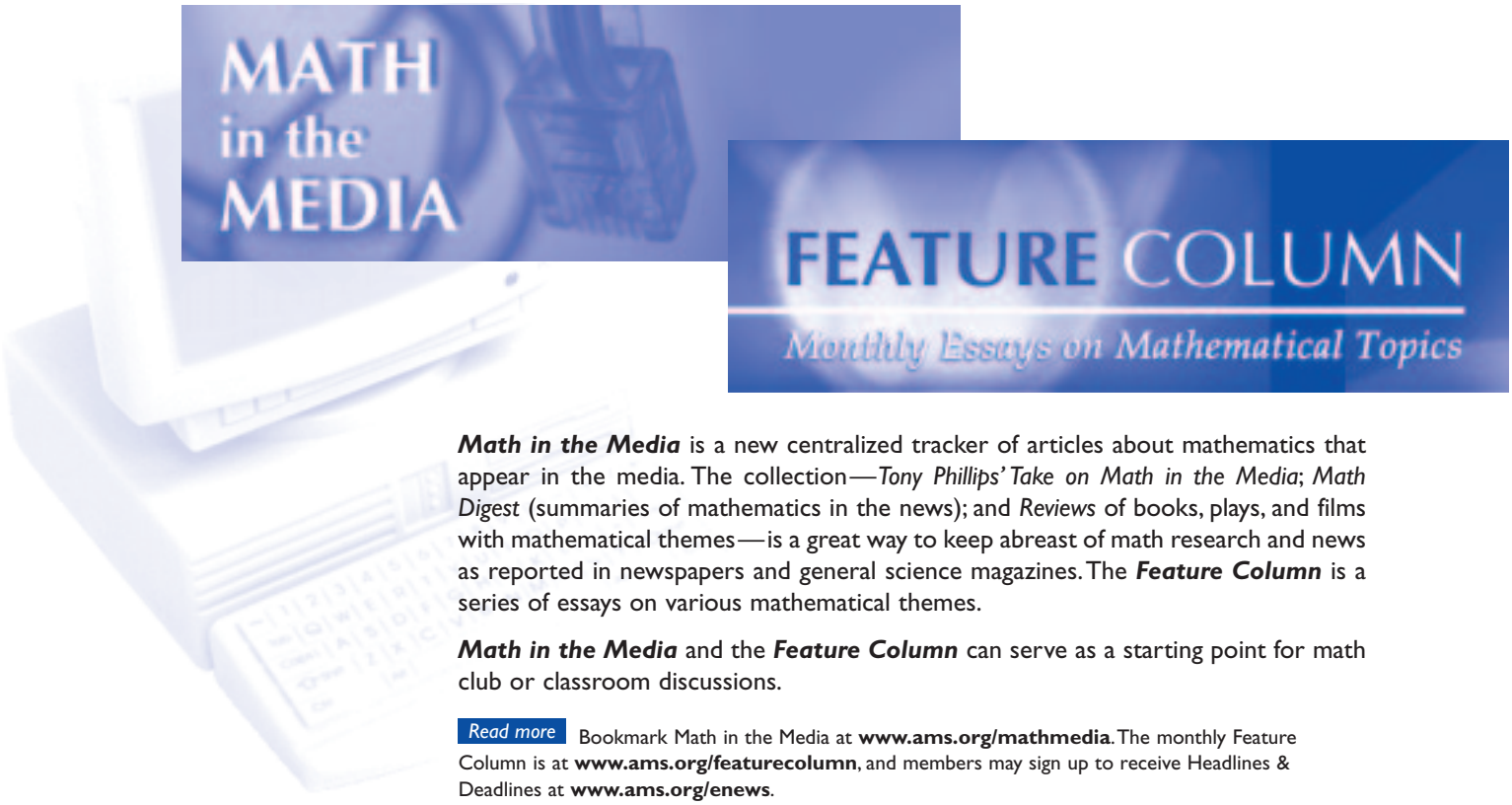

Math in the Media is a new centralized tracker of articles about mathematics that appear in the media. The collection—*Tony Phillips' Take on Math in the Media*; *Math Digest* (summaries of mathematics in the news); and *Reviews* of books, plays, and films with mathematical themes—is a great way to keep abreast of math research and news as reported in newspapers and general science magazines. The ***Feature Column*** is a series of essays on various mathematical themes.

Math in the Media and the ***Feature Column*** can serve as a starting point for math club or classroom discussions.

Read more Bookmark Math in the Media at **www.ams.org/mathmedia**. The monthly Feature Column is at **www.ams.org/featurecolumn**, and members may sign up to receive Headlines & Deadlines at **www.ams.org/enews**.