

From the AMS

John Ewing to be AMS Executive Director

John H. Ewing, professor of mathematics at Indiana University, has accepted the position of executive director of the AMS. Ewing succeeds William H. Jaco, who will leave the Society in August of this year to accept the Grayce B. Kerr Professorship of mathematics at Oklahoma State University.

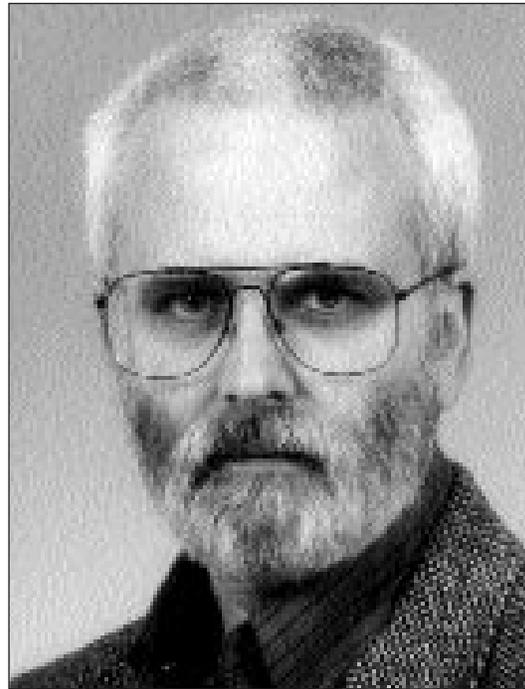
Announcing Ewing's appointment, AMS President Ronald L. Graham, said, "We are extremely pleased to have someone of John's caliber as the new executive director. His experience, energy, and vision will serve the Society and its members well as we move into our second century."

Ewing is perhaps best known to the mathematical sciences community as the editor of the *Mathematical Monthly*, the flagship journal of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). After becoming editor in 1990, he oversaw a major redesign and reorganization of the *Monthly*. Handling the over one thousand manuscripts submitted each year, Ewing also made the *Monthly* more timely by reducing the backlog from two years to ten months. He won praise for bringing together in each issue a lively balance of articles and features.

Ewing's experience with writing and editing goes beyond that connected with the *Monthly*. A winner of the MAA's Lester R. Ford Award for expository writing in 1975, he also served from 1980 until 1986 as editor-in-chief of the *Mathematical Intelligencer*, published by Springer-Verlag. He has also served on a number of editorial boards for Springer-Verlag and was a contributing editor to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica Year Book* from 1987 to 1991. His editing duties have not kept him from his own writing; in the past few years he has written a number of papers on the Mandelbrot set, including "Can We See the Mandelbrot Set?" in the *College Mathematics Journal* (to appear, March 1995).

"Writing, editing, and publishing have always been an important part of my professional life," Ewing points out. "There are profound changes taking place in publishing right now, and the AMS has an opportunity to influence the way those changes affect mathematicians. These are exciting—and challenging—times; I'm delighted to be a part of them."

Born in 1944 in Bronxville, New York, Ewing received his B.S. at St. Lawrence University (1966) and his M.S. (1971) and Ph.D. (1971) from Brown University. After that, he was a John Wesley Young Research Instructor at Dartmouth



John Ewing

until 1973, when he moved to Indiana University as an assistant professor. He was promoted to his present position of full professor in 1981. Ewing has held a number of visiting positions, including a visiting research fellowship at the University of Newcastle (1981-1982) and a fellowship at the University of Göttingen (1984-1985). In 1991-1992, he was the George Pólya Lecturer of the MAA. He has presented numerous lectures at colleges and universities and at meetings and conferences around the world. In August, he will deliver the AMS History of Mathematics Lecture at the Mathfest in Burlington, Vermont. Most of Ewing's research has been in algebraic topology, often involving applications of number theory to topology.

Active in administrative affairs at Indiana, Ewing served as chair of the mathematics department from 1986 to 1989 and from 1992 to 1995. His service to the mathematical sciences community includes membership on the Nominating Committee of the MAA, the Publications Committee of the AMS, and the Public Information Committee of the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics. He also was a member of the Advisory Board for the syndicated radio program, *A Moment of Silence*.

"Being a mathematician means being a professional in a broad sense," Ewing says. "I love mathematics; it has given me much intellectual enjoyment, good friends and colleagues, and a satisfying career. I hope I can now give something back."

In Appreciation of the AMS-fSU Aid Fund

The following letter was sent to Cathleen Morawetz, president of the AMS and a member of the AMS Advisory Committee on fSU Mathematics, in appreciation of the AMS-fSU Aid Fund. Supported by more than \$100,000 in member donations, in addition to funds from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Soros Foundations, the National Science Foundation, and the U.S. State Department, the fund has made possible 374 grants to mathematicians in the independent states of the fSU. Assistance is also being provided to special mathematics institutions and twenty-three mathematics libraries throughout the fSU. This letter is a tribute to the foresight and generosity of the AMS members involved in developing and contributing to this important effort.

Letter from IUM

Moscow, December 14, 1994

Dear Professor Morawetz,

In this letter we would like to express the gratitude of the Mathematics College of the Independent University of Moscow to the American Mathematical Society for its continuous assistance during these past few years. The fact that our institution, whose mission is to safeguard and carry on the best traditions of the Russian mathematical school, has managed to survive in a difficult period when these traditions seemed on the verge of disappearance, is due to a considerable extent to the help of the American mathematical community, extended via the AMS.

Since the IUM was founded (1991), almost all of its teaching staff (being constituted by well-known research mathematicians) and several of its administrators have benefitted from the AMS fSU grant. We feel it was symbolic that the first installment of this grant was distributed to all Moscow mathematicians in the auditorium where our lectures usually take place. At the time we did not have the financial backing necessary to remunerate our professors and instructors, and for many this grant was the basic source of support.

Recently we have received substantial help for our newly organized library from the AMS. This includes a first shipment of sets of AMS journals and monographs; we know that many AMS members have contributed books. Finally, the AMS has given our library complete sets of the CD ROM AMS-{\it Math Reviews} database with a CD reader. This essential tool of today's research mathematician will be especially appreciated by our graduate students and those undergraduates who are already beginning to do research.

We are aware that all this would not have been possible without the active and efficient support of concrete individuals. In particular, our thanks go to the executive director of the AMS, Bus Jaco; to Tim Goggins; to Susan Friedlander; and of course to Bob MacPherson. We realize that many other people whom we don't know personally have helped, e.g., officials of the AMS fiscal department. We are also grateful to Galya Kovaleva and Serge Gelfand.

More generally, we would like to stress that the help extended by the mathematical community of one country to that of another from which we have benefitted is rather unique in the history of science. We hope that the Russian mathematical school will soon begin to revive and that, as democracy in Russia consolidates, mathematicians here will receive the help that they need from national sources, but we are sure they will not forget the role played by the AMS in this recovery.

Sincerely,

A. S. Rudakov,

Former Dean of the IUM Mathematics College

Yu. S. Ilyashenko,

Dean of the IUM Mathematics College

Response from Cathleen Morawetz

January 11, 1995

Dr. A. S. Rudakov

Former Dean of the IUM Mathematics College

Dr. Yu. S. Ilyashenko

Dean of the IUM Mathematics College

Independent University of Moscow

Dear Dr. Rudakov and Dr. Ilyashenko,

Your letter of December 14 was very much appreciated. All of us in the American mathematical community truly hope that the great Russian mathematical tradition will rebound and return to normal during the next few years. My colleagues and I take great pride that we have done our best to help you to recover.

I shall send your expressions of gratitude to all those you have mentioned in your letter, for I know well how hard they worked. But as you know, it was the unprecedented charitable outpouring of the broad membership that made our matching program with the Sloan Foundation work. Would you have any objection to our publishing your letter in the *AMS Notices*, if its editorial committee would like to do so?

Yours sincerely,

Cathleen Synge Morawetz

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The November/December 1994 issue of the *Notices* carried an article entitled "Building Excellence in Doctoral Mathematics Departments", which described a new task force launched by the AMS. On page 1170, the article erred in stating that the project is funded by the National Science Foundation. The proposal for NSF funding is still under review. After the article went to press, the AMS received a grant for \$50,000 from the Exxon Education Foundation, covering a portion of the total projected costs of the work of the task force. The *Notices* regrets the error.

¹ Resigned on February 4, 1994