For Your Information

13th BMS Annual Department Chairs' Colloquium

Each fall the Board on Mathematical Sciences (BMS) of the National Research Council (NRC) holds the Mathematics Department Chairs' Colloquium. This year's colloquium will be held Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, at the Hyatt Regency Washington Hotel in Washington, DC. The theme is "Leading, Innovating, and Succeeding".

There will be plenary sessions and workshops on new federal funding programs; issues that concern small colleges; valuable lessons from statistics departments; innovative curricula; creative department programs; faculty issues such as preparing TAs for teaching, using adjuncts, and posttenure review; and collaboration between mathematical and other sciences.

At this time the scheduled organizers and speakers are: Steven Altschuler, Microsoft Corporation; Lynne Billard, University of Georgia; Richard Brualdi, University of Wisconsin; Tony Chan, University of California, Los Angeles; Phyllis Chinn, Humboldt State University; Kevin Clancey, University of Georgia; George Cobb, Mount Holyoke College; John B. Conway, University of Tennessee; Pamela Cook, University of Delaware; Heidi Davis, National Research Council; Robert Fefferman, University of Chicago; Joan Ferrini-Mundy, Mathematical Sciences Education Board; Joan Garfield, University of Minnesota; James Keener, University of Utah; Douglas Kelly, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Timothy Lance, State University of New York, Albany; Jim Lewis, University of Nebraska; George McCabe, Purdue University; Douglas Ravenel, University of Rochester; William Rundell, Texas A&M University; Christine Stevens, St. Louis University; and John Tucker, BMS. Speakers are subject to change.

The National Science Foundation Divisions of Mathematical Sciences; Undergraduate Education; and Elementary, Secondary, and Informal Education will host an open house on Thursday, November 12, to announce new opportunities, answer questions, and speak informally with chairpersons.

Chairpersons attending the colloquium who are interested also in meeting with congressional representatives or staff or in learning more about how to ensure that such meetings (either in Washington or in their home districts) are most effective should contact Samuel Rankin at the AMS Washington office: 202-588-1100, e-mail: `smr@ams.org`.

The registration fee is $175. Registration forms must be sent by **October 30, 1998**. For further information contact: Board on Mathematical Sciences, National Research Council, Room NAS 340, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20418-0001; telephone 202-334-2421; e-mail: `bms@nas.edu`.

—from a BMS announcement

John A. Thorpe Named NCTM Executive Director

JOHN A. THORPE of Queens College of the City University of New York has been named executive director of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. He succeeds Linda Rosen, who left the NCTM in 1997.

Thorpe received his Ph.D. degree in mathematics from Columbia University. He has been professor of mathematics and vice-provost for undergraduate education at the State University of New York at Buffalo, as well as director of the undergraduate programs in mathematics at the State Uni-

versity of New York at Stony Brook. While at Stony Brook he received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He served as senior vice president and provost, as well as professor of mathematics, at Queens College from 1993 to 1998. He has also directed the Instructional Materials Development Program at the National Science Foundation and chaired the Science Policy Committee of the Mathematical Association of America. He is the author of four books on elementary topology and geometry, differential geometry, and linear algebra.

"NCTM plays an important advocacy role for excellence in mathematics teaching and learning," Thorpe said. "I am delighted to be able to make a contribution to the work of the Council and its members." Thorpe assumed his duties as executive director on April 13.

—from an NCTM Announcement

NCTM Standards To Be Revised

Since 1996 the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) has been working on a revision of the Standards that it initiated in 1989. The updated Standards will incorporate the advances and experiences of the past ten years and will combine the three sets of Standards for curriculum, teaching, and assessment into one volume. A draft of the updated Standards will be available for public review in the fall of 1998, and the final version will be released in the spring of 2000.

The basic premise of the Standards is that all students should be provided with the opportunity to learn significant and sound mathematics. In view of that goal, the revision will include a more cohesive discussion of the development of students' mathematical knowledge across the grade span, from prekindergarten to grade 12, and will incorporate new knowledge about the ways students learn mathematics, as well as advice from mathematicans about the content development of mathematics. The new Standards will focus on the classroom and will be designed to cover four grade bands: prekindergarten to grade 2, grades 3 through 5, grades 6 through 8, and grades 9 through 12.

The revised Standards are expected to contain the following: a set of principles for instructional programs in mathematics that address necessary elements of effective mathematics education at the classroom, school, district, and national levels; content and process standards for all grade levels; and one chapter specifically addressing each grade band that explains and elaborates the standards and associated key ideas for each band.

The members of the Commission on the Future of the Standards, which has been charged with the revision, are: Mary Lindquist (chair), Columbus State University, Georgia; Fred Crouse, Annapolis Valley Regional School Board, Nova Scotia; Portia Elliott, University of Massachusetts; Mazie Jenkins, Madison, Wisconsin, school system; Jeremy Kilpatrick, University of Georgia; Michael Koehler, Overland Park, Kansas, school system; Marilyn Mays, North Lake

College, Texas; Richard Schoen, Stanford University; Bonnie Walker, Texas ASCD; and Gary Martin, NCTM staff liaison. The ex officio members of the Commission are Glenda Lappan, president of NCTM; Gail Burrill, past president of NCTM; and John Thorpe, executive director of NCTM.

A copy of the revised Standards may be requested from the NCTM and will also be available on the Web. Further information is available on the Council's Web site, `http://www.nctm.org/`. The Council may be contacted by e-mail at `future@nctm.org` or by telephone at 703-620-9840.

Issues related to the NCTM Standards revision were discussed in an article "The AMS and Mathematics Education: The Revision of the NCTM Standards" in the February issue of the *Notices*, page 243.

—Elaine Kehoe

Cryptologia Sponsors Undergraduate Paper Competition

The journal *Cryptologia* sponsors an annual Undergraduate Paper Competition in cryptology. The purpose of the competition is to encourage the study of all aspects of cryptology in undergraduate curricula. Undergraduate students are encouraged to enter; faculty are urged to inform their students about the competition. The topic may cover any technical, historical, or literary area of cryptology. First prize is $300 and publication of the winning paper in the journal. Three copies of the paper should be sent to: *Cryptologia*, Department of Mathematical Sciences, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, 10996. Further information about the journal and the competition may be found at `http://www.dean.usma.edu/math/resource/pubs/cryptolo/index.htm`.

Cryptologia is a scholarly journal devoted to all aspects of cryptology; it has been published as a quarterly since 1977. Topics covered include computer security, history, codes and ciphers, mathematics, military science, espionage, cipher devices, literature, and ancient languages.

—Brian Winkel, Editor
Cryptologia

Correction

The information about the institutional affiliation of 1997 Ostrowski Prize winner Gilles Pisier in the August 1998 *Notices* was incomplete. In addition to being a professor at the University of Paris VI, Pisier is a tenured faculty member at Texas A&M University, a position he has held since 1985. His position at A&M is Distinguished Professor of Mathematics A. G. & M. E. Chair of Mathematics.