
For Your Information

Hope Daly Retires

H. Hope Daly, the longtime director of the AMS Meetings Department, retired at the end of September 1999 after almost thirty-one years of service to the Society.

Daly came to the AMS in December 1968, initially working as executive secretary for then-executive director Gordon Walker, and later as his administrative assistant. In 1975 she was appointed as head of the Meeting Arrangements Department. Since that time the number of AMS meetings has grown, as have their size and complexity. In 1982 the AMS added the annual Summer Research Conferences, a set of ten week-long meetings held each summer. In 1986 came the largest meeting Daly ever directed, the International Congress of Mathematicians in Berkeley. Two years after that she oversaw planning for another especially large and complex meeting, the AMS Centennial, held in Providence in August 1988. In recent years Daly has successfully marketed the expertise of the AMS Meetings and Conferences Department to other organizations, and her department has planned meetings in Providence for such groups as the International Society for Experimental Hematology and the Estuarine Research Federation.

Daly excelled at the detailed planning and execution that goes into such complicated, large-scale affairs. At the same time she managed to bring a personal touch to meetings that attracted thousands. In addition to her mastery of her vocation, Daly is known as an excellent, fair-minded manager of employees. She also enjoyed very good relations with many in the AMS volunteer leadership, especially through her work with committees overseeing AMS meetings and conferences.

At its meeting in May 1999 the AMS Executive Committee and Board of Trustees passed the following resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the American Mathematical Society accept the retirement of H. Hope Daly with deep appreciation for her long record of faithful service.

“For more than 30 years Hope Daly has served the Society, and for almost a quarter century she has led one of the finest meetings departments in the world. To many members who regularly attend meetings, Hope is the face of the AMS. In that way, she has admirably represented the best dedication and devotion of all staff, thereby enabling the AMS to effectively serve its members and the greater mathematical community.

“The Trustees offer Hope their special thanks and heartfelt good wishes for a happy and well-deserved retirement.”

While Daly won accolades for her hard-working, serious side, it is her humor and good cheer that most endear her



H. Hope Daly

to staff and members alike. Her lively presence will be missed.

—Allyn Jackson

Update on Data Disclosure Law

In August 1999 the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a revision of a controversial set of rules pertaining to the availability of federally funded research data. The OMB prepared the revision after receiving a large number of complaints about the set of rules, known as Circular A-110. The deadline for comments on the revision was September 10, 1999, and at the time of this writing the final version was to be issued on September 30, 1999, to go into effect with the start of the new fiscal year on October 1.

The controversy began with an amendment that had been inserted into a spending bill passed in October 1998. The amendment directed OMB to require federal agencies to make available, upon request, data from the research they fund; requests were to follow the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The scientific community has been concerned about the amendment because it could potentially require scientists to provide raw research data that has not been checked or analyzed or to divulge medical records of human subjects of research. The law could also be interpreted to apply to manuscripts of research articles, e-mail correspondence, computer programs, or other material generated during the process of scientific research. Concerns have also been raised about patent rights and potential abuse by companies seeking to weaken federal regulations that are based on research data.

After members of the scientific community objected, OMB revised Circular A-110 in an attempt to take into account the concerns raised. That version was circulated for comment in February 1999 and generated over 9,000 responses. According to *FYI*, the electronic bulletin of science policy news of the American Institute of Physics, approximately 55 percent of the comments supported the proposed revision and 37 percent opposed it. During the commentary period some attempts were made to introduce new legislation that would either eliminate the law or delay its going into effect for a year, so that the issues could be studied further. At the time of this writing, none of these attempts had succeeded.

The February 1999 revision of Circular A-110 stated that “research findings used by the Federal Government in developing policy or rules” must be made available to the public under FOIA. The revision issued in August 1999 replaces “developing policy or rules” with “developing a regulation”. In addition, the new version attempts to define more clearly terms that appear in Circular A-110, including “research data” and “published”. The revision specifically says that “data” does not include “preliminary analyses, drafts of scientific papers, plans for future research, peer reviews, or communications with colleagues.” Physical objects, medical records, or information that may be

copyrighted or patented are also excluded. Research findings are considered to be “published” “either when (A) research findings are published in a peer-reviewed scientific or technical journal, or (B) a Federal agency publicly and officially cites to [sic] the research findings in support of” an agency action. In addition to calling for comments on these changes, OMB also wants feedback on whether or not the purview of Circular A-110 should be limited to federal regulations that reach what OMB calls “a \$100 million impact threshold.”

At its meeting in March 1999 the AMS Committee on Science Policy (CSP) discussed the revision of Circular A-110 with Kathleen Peroff, deputy associate director of the Energy and Science Division of OMB, and with Arthur Bienenstock, associate director for science of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. Subsequently CSP chair Arthur Jaffe, on behalf of the committee, sent a letter to OMB requesting that any policy for sharing data be established after a study by the National Academy of Sciences.

For further information on Circular A-110, see the article “Scientists weigh in against data disclosure law”, *Notices*, June/July 1999, pages 690–691; the government affairs page on the AMS Web site <http://www.ams.org/government/>; and the OMB Web site <http://www.whitehouse.gov/OMB/fedreg/2ndnotice-a110.html>.

—Allyn Jackson

Millenium Mathematics Project

The Millenium Mathematics Project (MMP) is a new national effort in the United Kingdom that seeks to change public attitudes about mathematics and to improve mathematics instruction. Based at the University of Cambridge, the MMP will be located in the new Centre for Mathematical Sciences, due to open in January 2000.

“For more than three centuries, British mathematicians have had a profound influence on the world’s cultural, scientific and technological development,” states the MMP Web site. “Today, however, mathematics in the UK, as in much of the developed world, is in trouble.” Mathematics is often poorly taught in the schools and is generally seen as a useless and boring subject. “Mathematics has become the ugly duckling of science,” the Web site continues, “surviving on low budgets, given low priority, mistrusted and marginalised by those who cannot understand it, viewed as a dead subject when the level of activity and the importance of new discoveries have never been higher.”

To address these problems, the MMP will work on a variety of fronts. In the educational arena, the MMP aims to improve mathematics education by offering enrichment activities for schoolchildren and resources for mathematics teachers. The MMP is targeting the general public through exhibitions that highlight new developments in mathematics and its connections to scientific and technological developments and to the broader cultural scene. To optimize the accuracy of coverage of mathematics in the press, the MMP will provide materials for media organizations and journalists. There are also plans to develop a national

resource center for written and other materials about mathematics, a database of experts willing to speak on mathematics, and news about events and resources about mathematics across the UK.

The MMP builds on a number of existing Cambridge-based projects that have aimed to increase public understanding and appreciation of mathematics and to improve the teaching of the subject. For example, the University of Cambridge mathematics faculty and colleges provide short summer colloquia for school teachers, open days, popular mathematics lectures, and school teacher fellowships. An international program called NRICH (<http://www.nrich.maths.org.uk/>), a partnership between the University of Cambridge and the Royal Institution, introduces schoolchildren to mathematical topics and ideas outside the range of the traditional mathematics classroom. PASS Maths (<http://www.pass.maths.org.uk/>) is a complementary online magazine that carries stories about new developments in mathematics and about the history of mathematics and science, interviews with mathematicians, information about degree courses, mathematical biographies, and links to other mathematics Web sites and resources.

The director of the MMP is the noted cosmologist and mathematical physicist John D. Barrow. In July 1999 he left the University of Sussex to take up a position as Research Professor of Mathematical Sciences at the University of Cambridge. Barrow is well known among the general public for his popular books on physics, such as *Impossibility: The Limits of Science and the Science of Limits* (Oxford University Press, 1998, ISBN 0-198-51890-0). Another member of the MMP project is David Crighton, head of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge. Crighton headed the POP Maths Roadshow, which ran in 1989 and visited twenty cities, attracting between 5,000 and 10,000 visitors at each venue. Also involved in MMP are Peter Goddard, professor of theoretical physics and founding co-director of the Isaac Newton Institute; Robert Hunt, lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics; and Peter Landshoff, professor of mathematical physics. Funding for the MMP comes from a variety of sources, including Unilever PLC, Ford Motor Company, Microsoft Corporation, Cambridge University Press, the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate, the Rothschild Trust, and the National Endowment for Science, Technology, and the Arts.

Further information about the MMP may be found at the Web site <http://www.mmp.maths.org.uk/> or by writing to the administrator, Julia Hawkins, at jemh4@damtp.cam.ac.uk.

—Allyn Jackson

Staff Changes at CSME

The Center for Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Education (CSME) at the National Research Council (NRC) has announced some staffing changes. Responsibilities for mathematics education within the center will be distributed

among the following mathematics staff members: Jane Swafford, Gail Burrill, James Gates, and Brad Findell. Jane Swafford (Illinois State University) is director of the Division on Mathematics and Teacher Education, which is responsible for overseeing mathematics-related activities within the center. Gail Burrill, past president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), now serves as director of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board (MSEB), and James Gates, former executive director of NCTM, continues in his role of associate director of MSEB.

On June 1, 1999, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, associate executive director of the center and director of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board, left the NRC to accept a position as Associate Dean for Science and Mathematics Education and Outreach and director of the Division of Science and Mathematics Education in the College of Natural Science at Michigan State University. She will continue to be engaged in her role as chair of the NCTM Standards 2000 Writing Group.

In addition, Rodger Bybee, executive director of the center, has accepted the position of executive director of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study (BSCS). Suzanne Woolsey, the NRC's chief operating officer, is serving as acting executive director for the center while the search continues for a new executive director.

—CSME announcement

UK Symposia Web Site

The Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge, England, has set up a new Web site that will be a central point for information about mathematics sciences symposia in the United Kingdom, including conferences, workshops, instructional courses, one-day meetings, and longer research programs. The URL for the Web site is <http://www.newton.cam.ac.uk/symposia.html>.

The site has been set up in cooperation with the London Mathematical Society (LMS), the International Centre for Mathematical Sciences in Edinburgh, the Mathematics Research Centre in Warwick, the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications in Essex, and the Royal Statistical Society.

—From LMS announcement