
For Your Information

AMS Establishes Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Endowment

In the fall of 1999, Ky Fan and his wife, Yu-Fen Fan, made a gift of approximately \$1 million to the AMS. The funds will be used to establish the Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Endowment. Income from the endowment will support mathematics in China and mathematically talented high school students in the U.S.

“The gift from Ky and Yu-Fen Fan reflects their commitment to supporting mathematics, particularly in their home country of China, where there is much talent but few resources,” said AMS president Felix E. Browder. “Their generosity is remarkable.”

Funds from the Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Endowment will primarily be devoted to a program for fostering collaborations between Chinese mathematicians and mathematicians in other parts of the world, especially North America. The program will provide grants to Chinese mathematics departments to bring in visitors from the rest of the world as well as grants to North American departments to bring in visitors from China. There will also be support for occasional conferences in China and for improving mathematics library holdings in Chinese institutions. In addition, the endowment will provide small grants to assist programs in the U.S. that nurture mathematically talented high school students. Half of the Fans’ gift will go into the endowment, and the other half into a gift annuity (whereby the donor receives an annuity and the unused portion becomes a donation).

Ky Fan is an emeritus professor of mathematics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Born on September 19, 1914, in Hangchow, China, he received his B.S. degree from Peking University (1936) and his D.Sc. degree from the University of Paris (1941). He was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton from 1945 to 1947 and held positions at the University of Notre Dame, Wayne State University, and Northwestern University before going to U.C., Santa Barbara, in 1965. Elected a member of the Academia Sinica in 1964, Fan served as the director of the Institute of Mathematics there from 1978 to 1984.

Fan was a student and collaborator of M. Fréchet and was also influenced by John von Neumann and Hermann Weyl. The author of approximately 130 papers, Fan made fundamental contributions to operator and matrix theory, convex analysis and inequalities, linear and nonlinear programming, topology and fixed point theory, and topological groups. His work in fixed point theory, in addition to influencing nonlinear functional analysis, has found wide application in mathematical economics and game theory, potential theory, calculus of variations, and differential equations.



Ky and Yu-Fen Fan

“The Ky and Yu-Fen Fan Endowment addresses groups that have deep reservoirs of talent in need of cultivation and resources,” Browder said. “The AMS is profoundly grateful to Ky and Yu-Fen Fan. The impact of their generosity will be felt for years to come.”

—Allyn Jackson

Straley Named MAA Executive Director

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) has named Tina Straley as its new executive director. Straley, associate vice president for scholarship and graduate studies at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, has served in the Southeastern Section of the MAA, has been an editor of the *MAA Notes*, and has served as a program officer at the National Science Foundation. Straley succeeds Marcia P. Sward, who took a position at the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation.

—Elaine Kehoe