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# Inside the AMS

## AMS Receives Grant to Support Travel to Euler Institute Summer School

The AMS has received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support participation by U.S. mathematicians and graduate students in the European Summer School, to be held in July 2001 at the Euler International Mathematical Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. The summer school, sponsored by the European Mathematical Society, will focus on asymptotic combinatorics, with applications to mathematical physics.

The AMS will use part of the NSF funds to establish small travel grants that will provide support for approximately eight U.S. mathematics graduate students to attend the summer school. Graduate students in mathematics doctoral programs in the U.S. may apply for the travel grants. Awardees will be selected by a panel of mathematicians with expertise in the area of the summer school. The remainder of the funds from the NSF will be used to support attendance in the summer school by two senior U.S. mathematicians.

The AMS has developed procedures for administration of other NSF-funded travel grants programs, such as those for the International Congress of Mathematicians in 1990, 1994, and 1998, and for the Society's meeting "Mathematical Challenges of the 21st Century", held in August 2000 at the University of California Los Angeles.

For information on how to apply for the graduate student travel grants, please see the "Mathematics Opportunities" section of this issue of the *Notices*.

—Allyn Jackson

## ECBT Decision on Sectional Meeting Fees

At its meeting in November 2000 the AMS Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT) reconsidered the issue of registration fees for sectional meetings. The board let stand its 1999 decision to raise fees for members and nonmembers and at the same time voted to reduce the fees for graduate students.

The increase in registration fees for sectional meetings was deemed necessary because the AMS loses money in organizing and holding the meetings. Although the cost of each meeting is relatively small, with eight meetings held each year the total annual loss was substantial. The increase in fees was designed to offset, not eliminate, this loss.

The necessity of the fee increase was questioned at the May 2000 meeting of the ECBT. At that time the higher fees had already been established for the sectional meetings planned for the fall of 2000. The board decided to revisit the issue at its next meeting in November 2000. In the meantime the *Notices* published in the October 2000 issue an opinion piece by associate editor Susan Friedlander, who argued against the fee increase.

At its November 2000 meeting the ECBT reexamined the financial aspects as well as arguments for and against the increase. The board decided to leave in place the increase in fees for AMS members and for nonmembers. Those fees went from \$30 to \$40 and from \$45 to \$60 respectively. At the same time, the ECBT decided to reduce the fees for graduate students from \$15 to \$5. The hope is that this reduction will attract more students to sectional meetings.

By the time of the ECBT meeting last November, the registration fee schedule for sectional meetings to be held in the spring of 2001 had already been set with the higher \$15 fee for graduate students. However, students will be able to register for those meetings for the lower \$5 fee.

—Allyn Jackson