Inside the AMS

AMS Congressional Briefing

A standing-room-only crowd of about eighty packed the latest AMS lunch briefing for members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill, July 26, 2001. Cosponsored by long-time mathematics supporter Congressman Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI), the topic, a briefing on the National Research Council Report *Adding It Up: Helping Children Learn Mathematics*, was a timely one, given President Bush's Mathematics and Science Partnerships initiative and Ehlers' plans to reintroduce his mathematics and science education bills, which narrowly missed passage in the previous session of Congress.

Pictured at the AMS congressional briefing, left to right: Deborah Loewenberg Ball, Congressman Vernon Ehlers, AMS President Hyman Bass, and Roger Howe, chair of the AMS Committee on Education.

The speakers were Deborah Loewenberg Ball (University of Michigan), Hyman Bass (University of Michigan and current AMS president), and Roger Howe (Yale University and current chair of the AMS Committee on Education), who presented a dynamic and fast-paced overview of the findings and recommendations of the just-released report, addressing three questions: What are the core problems of mathematics education? What are the roots of these problems? What needs to be done to address these problems and attain new goals?

The audience included congressional science and education staffers and also representatives from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and other mathematics and science professional organizations. The speakers chose mathematical examples that were interesting, understandable, and involved audience participation. Appreciative comments were received from their nonmathematical audience about the thoughtful preparation the speakers put into this briefing.

A prepublication version of the report is available at the National Academy Press website, `http://www.nap.edu/catalog/9822.html`.

—*Monica Foulkes, AMS Washington Office*

Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics: Confronting Diverse Student Interests

The AMS and the Mathematicians and Education Reform (MER) Forum are jointly launching a project entitled Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics: Confronting Diverse Student Interests. With three-year funding from the

National Science Foundation, planning for the project is now under way.

The project has two main goals. The first is to stimulate mathematics and mathematical sciences departments to look carefully at the diverse undergraduate student populations in their classes and to assess how well current courses meet the students' mathematical needs. The second is to facilitate departmental efforts to revise existing courses and develop or adapt new courses to afford all students a meaningful mathematical experience.

Most mathematics students fall into three general groups: students taking calculus but not continuing in mathematics, students fulfilling a mathematics requirement that does not require calculus, and students majoring in mathematically intensive fields who take advanced undergraduate courses. The AMS-MER project focuses on the second and third groups of students.

The project is intended to build on the awareness and expertise gained by departments involved in the calculus reform movement that has taken place over the past decade. This experience can be adapted and applied to other areas of the undergraduate curriculum. The project will also seek the involvement of other groups in the mathematical community, such as the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences and the pertinent committees of the Mathematical Association of America.

The heart of the project is an integrated set of six national workshops held on college and university campuses. Each participating department will be represented by a faculty team of two to four members. Two workshops will be held each academic year, one in the fall and the other in the spring. The first workshop will be held December 6–9, 2001, at Arizona State University, Tempe. The spring 2002 workshop will be at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition, the project will build networks of mathematical sciences departments, arrange programs at national meetings, and issue publications. While highlighting the needs of particular student groups, the project will also focus on critical issues that cut across all institutions.

The Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics project is an opportunity for faculty to interact with others who are striving to excel in undergraduate instruction, to learn from one another, and to showcase their progress. For further information contact the project director, Naomi Fisher, `ndfisher@uic.edu`.

—*Allyn Jackson*

AMS E-mail Support for Frequently Asked Questions

A number of non-user-specific electronic addresses have been established for contacting the AMS staff. The following is an updated list of those addresses together with a description of the types of inquiries that may be made through each address. This list is also available on the AMS's website at `http://www.ams.org/ams/email.html`.

abs-info@ams.org
for questions regarding a particular abstract.

abs-submit@ams.org
for information on how to submit abstracts for AMS meetings and MAA sessions at January Joint Mathematics Meetings. Type HELP as the subject line.

acquisitions@ams.org
to contact the AMS Acquisitions Department.

ams@ams.org
to contact the Society's headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island.

amsdc@ams.org
to contact the Society's office in Washington, DC.

amsmem@ams.org
to request information about membership in the AMS or about dues payments, or to ask any general membership questions; may also be used to submit address changes.

bookstore@ams.org
for inquiries related to the online AMS Bookstore.

classads@ams.org
to submit classified advertising for the *Notices.*

cust-serv@ams.org
for general information about AMS products (including electronic products); to send address changes, place credit card orders for AMS products, or conduct any general correspondence with the Society's Customer Services Department.

development@ams.org
for information about giving to the AMS, including the Epsilon Fund.

eims-info@ams.org
to request general information about deadlines and rates for *Employment Information in the Mathematical Sciences* (EIMS). Type HELP as the subject line.

ejour-submit@ams.org
to submit papers to *Representation Theory* and *Conformal Geometry and Dynamics*, electronic journals of the AMS. Each submission must be accompanied by the journal template. A copy of the template is available by sending e-mail to `ejour-submit@ams.org`. Put the word TEMPLATE in the subject field of the e-mail message. To get additional help, put the word HELP in the subject field in a separate mail message.

emp-info@ams.org
for information on AMS employment and career services.

eprod-support@ams.org
for technical questions regarding AMS electronic products and services.

era-submit@ams.org
for authors to submit research announcements to *Electronic Research Announcements of the AMS.*

mathcal@ams.org
to send information to be included in the "Mathematics Calendar" section of the *Notices*.

mathrev@ams.org
to submit reviews to *Mathematical Reviews* and to send related correspondence.

meet@ams.org
to request general information about Society meetings and conferences.

meetreg-request@ams.org
to request e-mail meeting registration forms.

meetreg-submit@ams.org
to submit completed e-mail registration forms.

mmsb@ams.org
for meeting registration and housing information.

msn-support@ams.org
for technical questions regarding MathSciNet.

notices@ams.org
to send correspondence to the managing editor of the *Notices*, including items for the news columns, "Reference & Book List", or the "Mathematics Calendar". The editor (`notices@math.tamu.edu`) is the person to whom to send articles and letters. Requests for permission to reprint from the *Notices* should be sent to `reprint-permission@ams.org` (see below).

notices-ads@ams.org
to submit display ads electronically to the *Notices*.

paoffice@ams.org
to contact the AMS Public Awareness Office.

president@ams.org
to contact the president of the American Mathematical Society.

prof-serv@ams.org
to send correspondence about AMS professional programs and services.

pub@ams.org
to send correspondence to the AMS Publication Division.

pub-submit@ams.org
to submit accepted electronic manuscripts to AMS publications (other than *Abstracts*).

reprint-permission@ams.org
to request permission to reprint material from Society publications.

sales@ams.org
to inquire about reselling or distributing AMS publications, or to send correspondence to the AMS sales department.

secretary@ams.org
to contact the secretary of the American Mathematical Society.

sos@ams.org
for information about AMS services to publishers.

statements@ams.org
to correspond regarding a balance due shown on a monthly statement.

survey@ams.org
for information or questions about the *Annual Survey of the Mathematical Sciences* or to request reprints of *Survey* reports.

tech-support@ams.org
to contact the Society's typesetting Technical Support group.

textbooks@ams.org
to request examination copies or to inquire about using AMS publications as course texts.

webmaster@ams.org
for general information or for assistance in accessing and using the AMS website.

Deaths of AMS Members

MOHAMED ALI AL-BASSAM, of the University of Baghdad and Kuwait University, died on August 23, 2001. Born on December 18, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 52 years.

IRVINE N. BAKER, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, England, died on May 21, 2001. Born on August 10, 1932, he was a member of the Society for 12 years.

JOHN SCHUMAKER, professor emeritus, Rockford College, IL, died on November 15, 2000. Born on July 24, 1925, he was a member of the Society for 35 years.

BRUCE G. SLOSS, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia, died on August 16, 2001. Born on March 7, 1960, he was a member of the Society for 9 years.