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# Inside the AMS

## AMS Supports ICM Travel Grants

Between 1998 and 2001, contributions from individuals, totaling about US\$134,000, were collected by the AMS for the Special Development Fund of the International Mathematical Union (IMU). This fund is used primarily to support travel grants for young mathematicians from developing countries to attend the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM). For ICM 2002, held in Beijing in August 2002, ninety-five young mathematicians received grants. In addition, a small portion of the funds were used for senior mathematicians from developing countries and Eastern Europe.

The IMU Special Development Fund is made up of contributions from mathematics organizations around the world. Contributions collected by the AMS accounted for about 70 percent of the total contributions to the Special Development Fund between 1998 and 2001.

The IMU hopes to be able to support the travel of about 120 mathematicians to attend ICM 2006, which will be held in Madrid, Spain, in August 2006.

—Allyn Jackson

## AMS-MER Workshop on Undergraduate Mathematics

Beginning in 2001, the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and the Mathematicians and Education Reform (MER) Forum began a three-year project, funded by the National Science Foundation, to help mathematics/mathematical science departments strengthen their undergraduate programs. Entitled “Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics: Confronting Diverse Student Interests”, the project focuses on the different groups of students in mathematics and their particular mathematical needs. The goal is to develop curricula and instruction that is valuable to these different student populations. The project seeks to build

a network of departments that are committed to (1) reviewing and assessing how well their undergraduate program is working for their students, and (2) revising existing courses and developing or adapting new courses to afford all their students a meaningful experience in learning mathematics.

The heart of the project is six integrated 4-day workshops, two in each academic year, each of which will bring together faculty teams of two to four members from some twenty or more colleges and universities to discuss curricular, instructional, and implementation issues relating to the mathematics offerings for different groups of students.

Three workshops have been held so far: at Arizona State University, Washington University in St. Louis, and Louisiana State University. The next workshop will be held March 13–16, 2003, at Ithaca College. For further information and application forms for participation, visit the MER website, <http://www.math.uic.edu/MER/>.

—Naomi Fisher, MER Forum

## Bass Attends Signing of NSF Reauthorization

On December 19, 2002, Hyman Bass, then AMS president, was present in the White House Roosevelt Room to witness President Bush sign into law H.R. 4664, a five-year reauthorization bill for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Although the bill does not provide funds for the NSF, it does provide the authority to obligate funds for specified activities. It authorizes increasing funding for the NSF from the current (fiscal year 2002) level of \$4.79 billion to \$9.84 billion in FY 2007. The funding levels of the last two years of the authorization are contingent on the NSF making satisfactory progress in meeting the goals of the president’s management agenda.

“We are quite pleased that President Bush has endorsed the efforts in Congress to support this much-needed growth of the NSF budget,” Bass said. “This is a proven

high-leverage investment in the national welfare—the economy, education, national security, and public health. This event is a tribute to the sustained efforts of many people and organizations, including the Coalition for National Science Funding chaired by our own Sam Rankin [director of the AMS Washington office]. We hope that the same wisdom will guide similar federal investment in research sponsored by other government agencies.”

In 1998 the NSF was authorized by the 105th Congress for FY 1998, 1999, and 2000. H.R. 4664 is significant because of the level of funding authorized and because of its unanimous passage by the House and Senate.

The full bill text can be found at [http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/congress/107/final\\_authorization\\_language.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/congress/107/final_authorization_language.pdf).

—*Allyn Jackson*

## Deaths of AMS Members

HENRY L. ALDER, professor emeritus, University of California, Davis, died on November 6, 2002. Born on March 26, 1922, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

SHEILA BRENNER, senior fellow, University of Liverpool, died on October 10, 2002. Born on January 17, 1930, she was a member of the Society for 12 years.

PAUL F. CHERENACK, of the University of Cape Town, South Africa, died on January 17, 2002. Born on June 19, 1942, he was a member of the Society for 31 years.

GEORGE F. D. DUFF, professor emeritus, University of Toronto, died on March 2, 2001. Born on July 28, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 49 years.

GUNNAR FOGELBERG, of Linköping University, Sweden, died on December 23, 2001. Born on March 24, 1944, he was a member of the Society for 9 years.

BARRY JOHNSON, retired, of Newcastle upon Tyne, England, died on May 5, 2002. Born on August 1, 1937, he was a member of the Society for 13 years.

CARL KOSSACK, professor emeritus, of Vero Beach, FL, died on October 1, 2002. Born in May 1915, he was a member of the Society for 64 years.

HOWARD G. McCUTCHEON, of Mayo, MD, died on October 10, 2002. He was a member of the Society for 4 years.

BERNHARD H. NEUMANN, professor emeritus, Australian National University, died on October 21, 2002. Born on October 15, 1909, he was a member of the Society for 55 years.

LEE E. PRAY, retired, of Naples, FL, died on September 21, 2002. He was a member of the Society for 4 years.

ARNOLD ROSS, of The Ohio State University, Columbus, died on September 25, 2002. Born on August 24, 1906, he was a member of the Society for 75 years.

JEAN E. RUBIN, of Purdue University, died on October 25, 2002. Born on October 29, 1926, she was a member of the Society for 52 years.

FRANK SMITHIES, of Cambridge, England, died on November 16, 2002. He was a member of the Society for 64 years.

OXANA ZIZA, of the Moscow Institute of Electronics and Mathematics, died on November 8, 2002. Born on October 16, 1930, she was a member of the Society for 22 years.

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