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# Inside the AMS

## Student Mentoring Workshop

The AMS has received a grant from the National Science Foundation to support a workshop on the nurturing and mentoring of students in mathematics. The purpose of the workshop is to build awareness within the mathematical community of programs that can enhance students' academic experiences and performance and that can help to attract and retain students. The workshop will also identify and showcase effective mentoring methods aimed at students from underrepresented minorities, methods that can also work well for the general population. The workshop will address programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral levels.

The workshop will be organized in partnership with other professional organizations, colleges and universities, and individual experts. Findings about successful practices will be disseminated through the website of the AMS and other organizations and institutions. The workshop will include approximately fifty participants and will take place in 2003 on a date to be determined. For further information contact Samuel M. Rankin III, director of the AMS Washington office, email: [smr@ams.org](mailto:smr@ams.org).

—Allyn Jackson

## Andy Magid Appointed Next Notices Editor

At its meeting in January 2003, the AMS Council approved the appointment of Andy Magid of the University of Oklahoma as the next editor of the *Notices*. His term will begin with the January 2004 issue. Magid has served on the *Notices* Editorial Board since 1995. He also served eight years as an AMS associate secretary and five years on the AMS Board of Trustees.

—Allyn Jackson

## Council Endorses Statements about Free Scientific Exchange and Boycotts

At its meeting in January 2003, the AMS Council passed two motions that were proposed in response to recent efforts to boycott Israeli academic institutions.

In passing the first motion, the Council endorsed a statement of the International Mathematical Union (IMU) (available at <http://elib.zib.de/IMU/GA-Shanghai/resolutions.html>). That statement, which was passed by the IMU General Assembly in Shanghai in August 2003, expounds general principles about the need for free flow of scientific exchanges and does not explicitly mention boycotts. The Council's endorsement of the statement passed quickly and unanimously.

The second motion generated more discussion, as it called for endorsement of two other statements that explicitly mention the boycotts: one by the American Physical Society (APS) entitled "Statement against the Call to Boycott Israeli Scientists" (available at <http://www.aps.org/statements/02.5.html>) and one by the Standing Committee on Freedom in the Conduct of Science (SCFCS) of the International Council for Science (ICSU) entitled "Israeli Scholars: ICSU/SCFCS Statement" (available at <http://www.icsu.org/Library/Central/Statement/israeli-schol.html> and in the *Notices*, January 2003, page 6).

It was apparent that the Council opposed the boycotts and believed the AMS should make a statement against them. Because of the difficulty of crafting a statement about such a sensitive issue, the discussion mostly centered on whether the Council should endorse an existing statement (or some version of one). The question therefore came down to, Which statement(s) should the Council endorse?

In the end, the Council did not vote on the second motion; rather, it voted on—and unanimously passed—a

motion endorsing the principles embodied in the National Academy of Sciences' "Statement on the Critical Importance of Continuing International Collaboration in Science" (available at <http://www4.nas.edu/nas/nashome.nsf/ur1links/NAS-5CXJ84?OpenDocument>).

Further information about and views on the boycotts may be found in "Letters to the Editor" in the November 2002, December 2002, and January 2003 issues.

—*Allyn Jackson*

## Deaths of AMS Members

TSENG CHOW, professor emeritus, California State University, Sacramento, died on December 4, 2002. Born on July 22, 1921, he was a member of the Society for 51 years.

TORRENCE I. GURMAN, of Tinton Falls, NJ, died on September 19, 2001. He was a member of the Society for 5 years.

SALVATORE LAURO, of Long Island City, NY, died on November 18, 2002. He was a member of the Society for 35 years.

JINDRICH NECAS, of Northern Illinois University, died on December 5, 2002. Born on December 14, 1929, he was a member of the Society for 3 years.

CARLO EMILIO PUCCI, of Univ. Degli Studi, Florence, Italy, died on January 10, 2003. Born on August 3, 1925, he was a member of the Society for 46 years.

PETER SLODOWY, of the University of Hamburg, Germany, died on November 19, 2002. Born on October 12, 1948, he was a member of the Society for 18 years.

DIMITAR TOKAREV, of the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy, Sofia, Bulgaria, died on December 30, 2002. Born on April 11, 1932, he was a member of the Society for 10 years.

H. ROBERT VAN DER VAART, of Raleigh, NC, died on November 16, 2002. He was a member of the Society for 37 years.

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