
For Your Information

BMSA Ends Chairs' Colloquium

The Board on Mathematical Sciences and their Applications (BMSA) of the National Academies has decided to end its program of annual colloquia for heads of college-level mathematics and statistics departments. The chairs colloquia have been held every year since 1986 as an opportunity for department heads to learn about developments in the funding agencies, to share insights about their challenges, and to build up a network of colleagues. In recent years other opportunities have been developed to allow department heads to gather and share ideas, and so it is no longer necessary for the Board to continue these events.

Other opportunities for department heads to congregate include: (1) The Professional Enhancement Programs (PREP) of the Mathematical Association of America, described at http://www.maa.org/pfdev/pfdev_index.html. (2) AMS workshops for chairs held at each Joint Mathematics Meeting. These small workshops focus on the managerial and administrative aspects of being a department head. (3) The annual meeting of the AMS Committee on Science Policy, which is designed in part to provide department heads with an introduction to policy issues. In future years, a greater effort will be made to involve more chairs. These meetings are held each April in Washington, D.C. (4) American Statistical Association workshops for chairs that are held in conjunction with each Joint Statistics Meeting. (5) Meetings held by the Division of Mathematical Sciences of the National Science Foundation in spring 2002 and spring 2003. These meetings are aimed at increasing the dialogue between DMS and department heads.

The Board is confident, after discussions with AMS and NSF, that the community will not be harmed by the cancellation of the BMSA chairs colloquium series, and it extends gratitude to all who have contributed to past colloquia.

—BMSA announcement