
Inside the AMS

Jane E. Kister Retires from MR

Jane E. Kister is retiring after twenty-five years of service at *Mathematical Reviews*, for the past six years as executive editor. Her successor, Kevin Clancey of the University of Louisville, comes on board in September of this year.

MR, particularly its web version MathSciNet, is one of the Society's most important enterprises, and today it is thriving. Over the years MR has had its share of financial and organizational difficulties, and there were even times when its continued existence seemed uncertain. MR not only surmounted those problems but today stands as a strong and efficient organization producing a tool that is essential to the daily work of mathematicians the world over. This feat is due in no small part to the dedication and hard work of Jane Kister.

Jane received her Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Oxford in 1972 and came to MR in 1979 as an associate editor. In 1984 she became associate executive editor and in 1998 was appointed to the top position of executive editor. When she arrived at MR, the operation had just gone through a difficult period of clearing backlogs and adjusting to new computer systems. Her steady hand and attention to detail proved invaluable in bringing stability to MR. Later on she made important contributions toward the creation and development of MathSciNet, which has revolutionized the way the MR database is used by making it available over the web.

"What Jane brought was a grace, fine style, and intelligence to every thing she did", commented her longtime MR colleague Drew Burton, manager of the MR computing systems. "She set the standard for everything she worked on exceptionally high."

Jane helped MR to grow in response to the increase in the mathematical literature. When she first came to MR, it was publishing about 30,000 reviews per year. By 1998, the year she became executive editor, the number of items added to the MR database was about 65,000; in 2003, more than 77,000 items were put in. On top of that, in the last several years almost 400,000 links have been added from MathSciNet items to original articles, and about half a million reference lists have been appended. Not only is MR able to handle this tremendous increase in material,



Jane E. Kister

under Jane's stewardship it has become more efficient, better organized, and less dependent on paper processing. One reason for her effectiveness is her complete mastery of every phase of the MR operation. "Because of that mastery she has been able to simplify what we do without sacrificing quality", said Burton.

Just as MathSciNet necessitated changes in the internal operations of MR, it brought new expectations and pressures from outside. At the time Jane became executive editor, "Math Reviews needed a diplomat", said executive director John H. Ewing, "someone who could cooperate and interact with the community of mathematicians, but at the same time someone who could forcefully represent the interests of Math Reviews and the AMS. Jane has done all these things—and done them spectacularly."

Jane combined a high sense of professionalism and conscientiousness with personal kindness that endeared her to everyone at the AMS, staff and members alike. "Thank you, Jane, for all you've done in your twenty-five years of service", said Ewing. "Thank you for being a fine editor, a true leader—and a superb colleague."

—Allyn Jackson

Math in Moscow Scholarships Awarded

The AMS has made awards to four undergraduate students to attend the Math in Moscow program in fall 2004.

The names of the students and their institutions are: CHRISTOPHER CHURCH, University of North Texas, ALLISON

MOORE, University of Texas at Austin; STEPHEN MCINTYRE, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and ALEX USTIAN, Ohio State University.

Math in Moscow is a program of the Independent University of Moscow that offers foreign students (undergraduate or graduate students specializing in mathematics and/or computer science) the opportunity to spend a semester in Moscow studying mathematics. The fifteen-week program is similar to the Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs that are held each summer across the United States. Math in Moscow draws on the Russian tradition of teaching mathematics, which emphasizes creative approaches to problem solving and in-depth understanding. All instruction is in English.

Since 2001, the AMS has awarded each semester several scholarships of approximately \$5,000 each for U.S. students to attend the Math in Moscow program. The scholarships are made possible through a grant from the National Science Foundation. Information about how to apply may be found in the August 2004 issue of the *Notices*, page 805, or on the webpage <http://www.ams.org/careers-edu/mimoscow.html>. For more information about Math in Moscow, consult <http://www.mccme.ru/mathinmoscow>, and the article "Bringing Eastern European Mathematical Traditions to North American Students," *Notices*, November 2003, pages 1250–1254.

—Allyn Jackson

William Ted Martin (1911–2004)

William Ted Martin, professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, died on May 30, 2004, at the age of 92. Martin had a long record of service to the AMS that spanned four decades, including a total of twenty years on the Board of Trustees and eight years as Treasurer.

Ted Martin, as he preferred to be called, was born in Arkansas in 1911, received his B.A. (1930) from the University of Arkansas, and his M.A. (1931) and Ph.D. (1934) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Following an appointment as a National Research Council Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, he went to MIT in 1936. In 1943 he became department head at Syracuse University, then rejoined the MIT faculty in 1946 as a professor.

Martin's area of research was several complex variables and harmonic analysis. His collaborations with MIT faculty R. H. Cameron, Stefan Bergman, and Norbert Wiener produced basic results on analytic functions of several complex variables, and on the Wiener integral, or Wiener measure, which had been proposed by Norbert Wiener in 1930. During the 1950s Martin wrote a series of papers with Salomon Bochner, establishing generalizations of classical results in function theory for analytic functions on complex spaces with singularities.

Martin's service to the Society began in 1949, when he served on the AMS Council as a Vice President. He was a member of the Board of Trustees (1953–1954, 1956–1964, and 1965–1973) and was AMS Treasurer from 1965 to

1973. Most recently, he chaired the Board of Trustees' Committee on Endowment and Planned Giving (1987–1994).

Serving as head of the MIT mathematics department from 1947 to 1968, Martin oversaw some twenty-four faculty appointments in mathematics. Under his leadership, the department grew from what was largely a small service department into one of the major world centers of pure and applied mathematics. He also initiated MIT's C.L.E. Moore Instructorship Program, which began in 1949 and continues to this day.

A gifted lecturer and teacher, Martin maintained a life-long dedication to teaching and curriculum development, including primary and secondary education. Beginning in 1961, he served as chair of the Steering Committee of the Education Development Center's African Mathematics Program to improve mathematical educational programs in English-speaking African nations. He visited Africa regularly over a fourteen-year period and was a member of numerous regional African management committees.

—Allyn Jackson

Deaths of AMS Members

JACOB T. B. BEARD JR, retired from Tennessee Tech University, died on February 20, 2004. Born on November 30, 1940, he was a member of the Society for 34 years.

ROBERT L. GRAVES, emeritus professor, Flossmoor, Illinois, died on March 2, 2004. Born on September 1, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

M. S. JAGADISH, of Barry University, Miami Shores, FL, died on March 30, 2004. Born on June 1, 1941, he was a member of the Society for 27 years.

DAN LORENZ, of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, died on January 25, 2001. Born on June 29, 1931, he was a member of the Society for 42 years.

FLEMMING DAMHUS PEDERSEN, retired lecturer of the Technical University of Denmark, died on March 12, 2004. Born on May 19, 1925, he was a member of the Society for 42 years.

GERT K. PEDERSEN, of the University of Copenhagen, died on March 15, 2004. Born on April 13, 1940, he was a member of the Society for 31 years.

MEIR REICHAW, of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, died on February 28, 2000. Born on December 20, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 38 years.

YUNG-CHOW WONG, of Hong Kong, People's Republic of China, died on May 13, 2004. Born on June 2, 1913, he was a member of the Society for 60 years.