Inside the AMS

AMS Congressional Briefing

AMY LANGVILLE, professor of mathematics at the College of Charleston, spoke to congressional representatives on Capitol Hill on November 16, 2006, about the role mathematics plays in some of today's technologies. Her presentation included illustrations of the mathematics behind Google, Sudoku, counterterrorism, email surveillance, and military flight plans.

Mathematics is the enabling discipline for many of the technologies that we enjoy today, as well as being critical to national security. Mathematics is needed for deciphering the complicated and tangled communication networks of terrorists; for managing the world's largest document collection, the World Wide Web; and for formulating something as routine as the daily Sudoku puzzle found in newspapers around the globe.

—Anita L. Benjamin, AMS Washington office

Photos: Top, speaker Amy Langville; below, audience at congressional briefing.

AMS Sponsors NExT Fellows

Each year the AMS sponsors six Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) Fellows who are affiliated with Ph.D.-granting institutions and who show promise in mathematics research. The names, affiliations, and areas of research of the 2006–2007 NExT Fellows are: GERARD AWANOU, Northern Illinois University, numerical analysis of partial differential equations; ELENA DIMITROVA, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, mathematical biology; GIZEM KARAALI, Pomona College, representation theory and quantum groups; PETER MCNAMARA, Bucknell University, combinatorics; HOLLY SWISHER, Oregon State University, number theory and combinatorics; and ANDREW WHITTLE, Kennesaw State University, mathematical biology and optimal control.

Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching) is a professional development program for new or recent Ph.D.'s in the mathematical sciences (including pure and applied mathematics, statistics, operations research, and mathematics education). It addresses all aspects of an academic career: improving the teaching and learning of mathematics, engaging in research and scholarship, and participating in professional activities. It also provides the participants with a network of peers and mentors as they assume these responsibilities. Each year sixty to seventy new Ph.D.'s receive Project NExT Fellowships, which allow them to attend special events at the summer MathFest of the Mathematical Association of America and at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. The AMS also holds activities for the AMS NExT Fellows at the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

For further information about Project NExT, visit the website `http://archives.math.utk.edu/projnext/`.

—Elaine Kehoe