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# Inside the AMS

## Current Events Session at Joint Meetings

The Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego in January 2008 will feature a special session called “Current Events Bulletin”, which will showcase four expository lectures on topics at the frontier of mathematical research. The session is organized by AMS past-president David Eisenbud of the University of California, Berkeley.

The format for the talks follows the model of the famous Bourbaki Seminars in that mathematicians with especially strong expository skills speak on work not their own and written versions of the talks are prepared beforehand and distributed at the session. But there are some novel features too. The talks are generally more accessible than those of the Bourbaki Seminars, and the coverage is broader and includes applied areas. Often a talk begins with a general, nontechnical presentation of the topic, lasting about twenty minutes. There is a short break, and then the talk continues with a more detailed presentation of how the topic is used in a particular setting. The “Current Events” sessions have drawn large audiences and have turned out to be one of the most popular activities at the Joint Meetings. The written versions of the talks are collected in an attractive booklet. The booklets have become so popular that the Society now prints nearly 2,000 copies. These will be distributed both at the special session itself and at the registration area of the meeting; you are invited to stop by and pick up a copy!

A tradition has also developed for the talks to appear in print. Some of them have been expanded to appear as articles in the *Bulletin of the AMS*.

For the session in San Diego, the speakers and their lecture titles follow.

GUNTHER UHLMANN, University of Washington, *Invisibility*

ANTONELLA GRASSI, University of Pennsylvania, *Birational Geometry: Old and New*

GREGORY F. LAWLER, University of Chicago, *Conformal Invariance and 2-d Statistical Physics*

TERENCE C. TAO, University of California, Los Angeles, *Why Are Solitons Stable?*

The session will take place Tuesday, January 8, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Information about this and other Joint Meetings activities is available on the AMS meetings website, <http://www.ams.org/meetings>.

—Allyn Jackson

## Erdős Memorial Lecture

The Erdős Memorial Lecture is an annual invited address named for the prolific mathematician Paul Erdős (1913–1996). The lectures are supported by a fund created by Andrew Beal, a Dallas banker and mathematics enthusiast. The Beal Prize Fund, now US\$100,000, is being held by the AMS until it is awarded for a correct solution to the Beal Conjecture (see <http://www.math.unt.edu/~mauldin/beal.html>). At Beal’s request, the interest from the fund is used to support the Erdős Memorial Lecture.

The Erdős Memorial Lecturer for 2007 was Andrew J. Granville of the University of Montreal. He delivered a lecture titled “Erdős Dream and Pretentious Characters” at the Spring Southeastern Section Meeting at Davidson College, Davidson, North Carolina, in March 2007.

—AMS announcement

## New *Mathematical Moments* Available

The Society’s latest *Mathematical Moments* connect mathematics with the world: From global warming to Sudoku, racing for America’s Cup to reconstructive surgery, preserving archaeological treasures to burying carbon dioxide, *Mathematical Moments* explain to students, parents, teachers, administrators, elected officials—everyone—how mathematics is used to solve today’s problems.

The *Mathematical Moments* are designed to help promote an appreciation and understanding of the role mathematics plays in science, nature, technology, and human culture. There are currently sixty-four topics

online, all as pdf files that may be freely downloaded. Some are translated into Spanish and other languages. Hear Dartmouth College computer scientist Hany Farid talk in a podcast about how he uses math to detect tampering in digital photographs in “Finding Fake Photos”. Other topics, including “Making Movies Come Alive”, “Predicting Storm Surge”, and “Targeting Tumors”, may also be heard as podcasts. The surprising and wide-ranging applications of mathematics are at <http://www.ams.org/mathmoments>.

—AMS Public Awareness office

## Deaths of AMS Members

ALI R. AMIR-MOEZ, professor emeritus, from Lubbock, TX, died on August 25, 2007. Born on April 7, 1919, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

JAMES AX, from Marina Del Rey, CA, died on June 11, 2006. Born on January 10, 1937, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.

JAMES W. BOLAND, associate professor, East Tennessee State University, died on December 16, 2006. Born on April 12, 1958, he was a member of the Society for 15 years.

KENNETH L. COOKE, professor emeritus, Pomona College, died on August 25, 2007. Born on August 13, 1925, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

ROBERT L. DRUET, from Springfield, MO, died on September 13, 2007. Born on April 21, 1935, he was a member of the Society for 19 years.

DANIEL O. ETTER, from Guilford, CT, died on February 13, 2007. Born on August 3, 1929, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

MIKLOS FARKAS, professor, Budapest University of Technology & Economics, died on August 28, 2007. Born on June 15, 1932, he was a member of the Society for 16 years.

FRANK D. FAULKNER, Naval Postgraduate School, died in November 2004. Born on April 6, 1915, he was a member of the Society for 55 years.

ANDERS FRANKILD, University of Copenhagen, died on June 10, 2007. Born on January 19, 1971, he was a member of the Society for 2 years.

DAVID S. GEIGER, retired, from Marquette, MI, died on October 11, 2007. Born on January 3, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 38 years.

MARGARET GURNEY, from Quilcene, WA, died in March 2002. Born on October 28, 1908, she was a member of the Society for 70 years.

WILLIAM H. GUSTAFSON, professor, Texas Tech University, died on July 16, 2007. Born on September 9, 1944, he was a member of the Society for 41 years.

THEODORE E. HARRIS, University of Southern California, died in November 2005. Born on January 11, 1919, he was a member of the Society for 57 years.

CHARLES A. HAYES, professor, University of California, Davis, died on August 26, 2007. Born on April 9, 1916, he was a member of the Society for 68 years.

JUHA HEINONEN, professor, from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, died on October 30, 2007. Born on July 23, 1960, he was a member of the Society for 20 years.

WARREN M. HIRSCH, professor emeritus, New York University, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, died on July 9, 2007. Born on August 3, 1918, he was a member of the Society for 60 years.

BERNARD E. HOWARD, University of Miami, died in January 2005. Born on September 22, 1920, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

LOUISE S. HUNTER, from Ettrick, VA, died on March 20, 1996. Born on August 31, 1901, she was a member of the Society for 55 years.

VICTOR KLEE, professor emeritus, University of Washington, died on August 17, 2007. Born on September 18, 1925, he was a member of the Society for 61 years.

JACK LEVINE, professor emeritus, from Raleigh, NC, died on June 9, 2005. Born on December 15, 1907, he was a member of the Society for 75 years.

F. W. LIGHT JR., retired, from Jonestown, PA, died on July 22, 2007. Born on September 13, 1906, he was a member of the Society for 66 years.

JUSTIN G. MACCARTHY, from Acton, MA, died on June 12, 2006. Born on June 23, 1915, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

R. J. MARCOU, from Rockland, MA, died on July 29, 1996. Born in January 1906, he was a member of the Society for 61 years.

BERTHA W. MATHER, of St. Petersburg, FL, died on May 2, 2003. Born on May 19, 1906, she was a member of the Society for 37 years.

ROBERT G. MCDERMOT, of Pittsburgh, PA, died on January 15, 1989. Born on January 3, 1922, he was a member of the Society for 34 years.

ROBERT V. MENDENHALL, professor emeritus, Ohio Wesleyan University, died on September 8, 2003. Born on December 27, 1920, he was a member of the Society for 54 years.

ANDREWA R. NOBLE, from Auburn, CA, died in November 1993. Born in March 1908, she was a member of the Society for 53 years.

DONALD H. POTTS, from Goleta, CA, died on November 1, 2001. Born on December 15, 1921, he was a member of the Society for 56 years.

EUGENE SADOWSKI, from Bedford, TX, died in August 1987. Born on August 30, 1911, he was a member of the Society for 23 years.

FRANZ J. SCHNITZER, professor emeritus, University of Leoben, died in 2006. Born on July 14, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.

MARY V. SUNSERI, Stanford University, died on October 16, 2003. Born on May 29, 1916, she was a member of the Society for 53 years.

ALAN WAYNE, from Cazenovia, NY, died in August 1996. Born on June 18, 1909, he was a member of the Society for 25 years.