

Inside the AMS

AMS Announces Congressional Fellow

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) is pleased to announce that HUGH MACMILLAN has been chosen as its Congressional Fellow for 2010–2011.



Hugh MacMillan

The AMS will sponsor MacMillan's fellowship through the Congressional Fellowship program administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The fellowship is designed to provide a unique public policy learning experience, to demonstrate the value of science-government interaction, and to bring a technical background and external perspective to the decision-making process

in Congress.

Fellows spend a year working on the staff of a member of Congress or a congressional committee as a special legislative assistant in legislative and policy areas requiring scientific and technical input. The fellowship program includes an orientation on congressional and executive branch operations and a year-long seminar series on issues involving science, technology, and public policy.

Hugh MacMillan earned his Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Colorado at Boulder and most recently worked as an assistant professor of mathematical sciences at Clemson University.

For more information on the AAAS Congressional Fellowship Program, visit the website <http://www.fellowships.aaas.org>.

—AMS Washington Office

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 www.math.unt.edu/~mauldin/beal.html). At Mr. Beal's request, the interest from the fund is used to support the Erdős Memorial Lecture.

The Erdős Memorial Lecturer for 2010 was Doron Zeilberger of Rutgers University. He delivered a lecture titled "3x + 1" at the Spring Southeastern Section Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, in March 2010.

—AMS announcement

AMS Holds Workshop for Department Chairs

The AMS held its annual workshop for department chairs prior to the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco, California, in January 2010. This one-day session for mathematical sciences department chairs and leaders is organized in a workshop format to facilitate the sharing of ideas and experiences between peers and to create an environment in which attendees can address departmental challenges from new perspectives.

The 2010 workshop was led by Lawrence Gray, former head and director of undergraduate studies at the School of Mathematics, University of Minnesota; John Meakin, chair, Department of Mathematics, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; and Stephen Robinson, chair, Department of Mathematics, Wake Forest University.

Workshop sessions have included a range of issues facing departments, including planning and budgeting, personnel management, assessment, outreach, faculty development, communications, and departmental leadership. Workshop leaders used a case study approach this year to elicit discussion on these important topics.

—Anita Benjamin, AMS Washington Office

From the AMS Public Awareness Office

In April the American Mathematical Society (AMS) organized and cosponsored **Cinemath: A Festival of Math Films** in Rhode Island. The first event was a screening at the Rhode Island School of Design of *Between the Folds*, the award-winning documentary exploring the science, art, creativity, and ingenuity of many of the world's best paper folders, including theoretical scientists who fuse mathematics and sculpture in the medium of origami. Following the screening, filmmaker Vanessa Gould (greenfusefilms.com) answered questions from the



audience. Rhode Island PBS aired several documentaries, including *Between the Folds*, *Hunting the Hidden Dimension*, *It All Adds Up*, and *Hard Problems: The Road to the World's Toughest Math Contest*. The Providence Public Library screened *Stand and Deliver* (based on the story of real-life math teacher Jaime Escalante, who passed away in March), *Good Will Hunting*, and *A Beautiful Mind*.

The Public Awareness Office conducted *Who Wants to Be a*

Mathematician at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in March and at Providence College in April. Neil Gurrum of Detroit Country Day School and Seth Neel of The Wheeler School were the big winners at the two events, each winning US\$3,000 and a TI-Nspire graphing calculator. Read about the contests at <http://www.ams.org/programs/students/wwtbam/ann-arbor-2010> and <http://www.ams.org/programs/students/wwtbam/ri-2010>. Also see video of these games and others, including the national contest that took place at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Francisco, at <http://www.youtube.com/user/amermathsoc>.

The Public Awareness Office distributed posters and materials to members of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) in a spring mailing and also at the NCTM's annual meeting in a small display in the American Statistical Association's exhibit booth.

—Annette Emerson and Mike Breen
AMS Public Awareness Officers
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AMS Announces Mass Media Fellowship Award

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) is pleased to announce that BENJAMIN PITTMAN-POLLETTA has been awarded its 2010 Mass Media Fellowship. Pittman-Polletta is a Ph.D. student in mathematics at the University of Arizona. He will work at the *Oregonian* for ten weeks over the summer under the sponsorship of the AMS.



Benjamin Pittman-Polletta

The Mass Media Fellowship program is organized by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). It is a highly competitive program designed to improve public understanding of science and technology by placing advanced science, mathematics, and engineering students in

newsrooms nationwide. Fellows work with media professionals to improve their communication skills and increase their understanding of the editorial process by which events and ideas become news.

The program is available to college or university students (in their senior years or on any graduate or post-graduate level) in the natural, physical, health, engineering, computer, or social sciences or mathematics who have outstanding written and oral communication skills and a strong interest in learning about the media. The program has supported more than 500 fellows in its thirty-six years.

For more information on the AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship Program, visit the website <http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/>.

—AMS Washington Office

Fan China Exchange Program Names Awardees

The Society's Fan China Exchange Program awards grants to support collaborations between Chinese and U.S. or Canadian researchers. Institutions in the United States or Canada apply for the funds to support a visitor from China or vice versa. This funding is made possible through a generous gift made to the AMS by Ky and Yu-Fen Fan in 1999. The awardees for 2010 follow.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY received a grant of US\$2,500 to support a visit by Zhengfeng Yang of East China Normal University.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON received a grant of US\$3,480 to support a visit by Pingzheng Zhang of the University of Jiangsu.

For information about the Fan China Exchange Program, visit the website <http://www.ams.org/programs/travel-grants/china-exchange/china-exchange> or contact the AMS Membership and Programs Department, email: chinaexchange@ams.org, telephone 401-455-4170 (within the U.S. call 800-321-4267, ext. 4170).

—AMS Membership and Programs Department

AMS Sponsors Exhibit at Capitol Hill Event

Susan Minkoff of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC) represented the AMS at the annual Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF) exhibition on Capitol Hill, held April 14, 2010. Minkoff presented her work on two different application problems, which are modeled at least in part by the wave equation. The two projects are both highly collaborative, involving faculty and students at UMBC and other institutions.

One project involved modeling and simulation of a next generation of trace gas sensors. These sensors will lead to new ways to detect diseases via breath biomarkers and



Left to right: Susan Minkoff with Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) and NSF Director Arden Bement.

more portable and robust technology for monitoring of atmospheric pollutants, chemical weapons, and so forth. The other project involved seismic imaging of the Earth's subsurface either to illuminate the near surface (environmental applications), the deep crust (earthquake modeling and prediction), or the region between these two regimes (possible petroleum targets).

The annual CNSF exhibition highlights research and education projects made possible through funding by the National Science Foundation. The 2010 exhibition included thirty-seven displays on a wide range of projects.

—Anita Benjamin, AMS Washington Office

Deaths of AMS Members

DEAN C. BENSON, from Kennewick, Washington, died on March 18, 2010. Born on October 25, 1918, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

MARY L. BOAS, from Lake Forest Park, Washington, died on February 17, 2010. Born on March 10, 1917, she was a member of the Society for 70 years.

MICHAEL A. CASE, obtaining his doctorate in mathematics from Clemson University, died on April 3, 2010. Born on September 14, 1981, he was a member of the Society for 1 year.

Father Robert R. Dobbins, professor emeritus of mathematics at Iona College, died on November 13, 2009. Born on August 29, 1934, he was a member of the Society for 38 years.

EDWIN DUDA, from Miami, Florida, died on May 21, 2009. Born on October 15, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 50 years.

KY FAN, professor emeritus, University of California, Santa Barbara, died on March 22, 2010. Born on September 19, 1914, he was a member of the Society for 64 years.

J. FANG, professor, from North, Virginia, died on February 16, 2010. Born on March 30, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.

ANDREW J. FRIEDMAN died on October 26, 2009. Born on March 20, 1952, he was a member of the Society for 11 years.

VLADISLAV V. GOLDBERG, professor emeritus, New Jersey Institute of Technology, died on March 18, 2010.

Born on January 4, 1936, he was a member of the Society for 30 years.

GEORGE W. HEIGHO, from California, died on March 19, 2010. Born on July 10, 1933, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.

F. B. HILDEBRAND, from Wellesley, Massachusetts, died on November 29, 2002. He was a member of the Society for 62 years.

RAJ K. KAUL, professor, State University of New York at Buffalo, died on April 9, 2010. Born on May 8, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 25 years.

MATTHEW KING, first-year graduate student, University of Virginia, died on April 19, 2010. Born on March 19, 1987, he was a member of the Society for 1 year.

RICHARD K. LASHOF, professor, from Alameda, California, died on February 4, 2010. Born on November 9, 1922, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

E. L. LEHMANN, professor, University of California, Berkeley, died on September 12, 2009. Born in 1917, he was a member of the Society for 37 years.

GEORGE F. LENZ, professor, University of New Orleans and Tulane University, died on February 11, 2010. Born on December 11, 1927, he was a member of the Society for 15 years.

WARREN S. LOUD, professor emeritus, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, died on January 15, 2010. Born on September 13, 1921, he was a member of the Society for 68 years.

ARIK A. MELIKYAN, professor, Russian Academy of Sciences, died on April 6, 2009. Born on October 5, 1944, he was a member of the Society for 15 years.

JAMES M. ORTEGA, professor, from Palmyra, Virginia, died on October 24, 2008. Born on June 15, 1932, he was a member of the Society for 47 years.

EDGAR REICH, professor, University of Minnesota, died on July 6, 2009. Born on June 7, 1927, he was a member of the Society for 60 years.

WALTER RUDIN, professor, University of Wisconsin, died on May 20, 2010. Born on May 2, 1921, he was a member of the Society for 62 years.

JOHN SHAFER, professor, from Kensington, California, died on January 21, 2010. Born on July 9, 1924, he was a member of the Society for 43 years.

GERALD P. SHANNON, professor, University College of North Wales, died on May 5, 2010. Born on March 20, 1944, he was a member of the Society for 18 years.

GARY L. VANCE, professor, from Michigan, died on June 8, 2008. Born on July 10, 1937, he was a member of the Society for 7 years.

JOSEPH S. VERRET, professor, from Los Angeles, California, died on March 30, 2010. Born on December 11, 1945, he was a member of the Society for 19 years.

BERNARD VINOGRAD, professor, from Santa Clara, Utah, died on March 29, 2010. Born on May 7, 1915, he was a member of the Society for 69 years.

STEPHEN WILLARD, professor, University of Alberta, Canada, died on August 7, 2009. Born on November 1, 1941, he was a member of the Society for 44 years.

HONGYOU WU, professor, Northern Illinois University, died on June 9, 2009. Born on October 15, 1961, he was a member of the Society for 21 years.