2016–2018 Editor-in-Chief Frank Morgan.

Welcome from the New *Notices* Editor-in-Chief

The Notices of the American Mathematical Society must be interesting and valuable to its wide and diverse readership around the world, including research mathematicians, students, and everyone else interested in mathematics. Our top priority is to present compelling readable articles on the latest advances in mathematics, well-illustrated, and subject to extensive editing and cutting to provide a sharp focus and to avoid the overly technical.

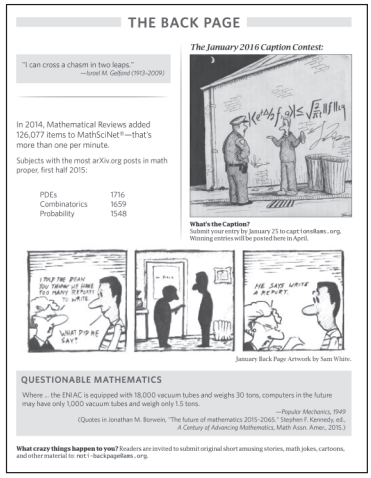
We're starting this issue with alluring notes from invited speakers at this month's Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle, to entice those attending and to include everyone else in the excitement.

JMM 2016 LECTURE SAMPLER

We've added a new Graduate Student Section, with email interviews by the first graduate student member of the Editorial Board, an enhanced version of the popular "WHAT IS..?" feature, and some excerpts from the AMS Graduate Student Blog.

THE GRADUATE STUDENT SECTION

Our redesigned webpage invites online moderated discussion and commentary, as a first step toward future Web enhancements. Every February and September we'll have a "Mathematical Moment" for sharing with your friends. Some of the more routine material is being replaced with shorter blurbs and links to fuller information. Our new closing "Back Page" includes a cartoon caption contest and an original comic strip.



THE BACK PAGE

"I can cross a chasm in two leaps."
—Israel M. Gelfand (1913–2009)

In 2014, Mathematical Reviews added 126,077 items to MathSciNet®—that's more than one per minute.

Subjects with the most arXiv.org posts in math proper, first half 2015:

PDEs	1716
Combinatorics	1659
Probability	1548

The January 2016 Caption Contest:

What's the Caption?
Submit your entry by January 25 to capt1on@ams.org. Winning entries will be posted here in April.

January Back Page Artwork by Sam White.

QUESTIONABLE MATHEMATICS

Where ... the ENIAC is equipped with 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighs 30 tons, computers in the future may have only 1,000 vacuum tubes and weigh only 1.5 tons.

—*Popular Mechanics*, 1949

(Quotes in Jonathan M. Borwein, "The future of mathematics 2015–2065." Stephen F. Kennedy, ed., *A Century of Advancing Mathematics*, Math Assn. Amer., 2015.)

What crazy things happen to you? Readers are invited to submit original short amusing stories, math jokes, cartoons, and other material to: not1-backpage@ams.org.

Please send us contributions of all types you think appropriate for Notices. Write about math. Write an article about how to find a job for the Graduate Student Section. Write about how to write a letter of recommendation. Write about women and minorities. Write a *Doceamus* article about how to bring the latest math into the undergraduate classroom. Write about support for research vs. adjuncts in public institutions. Send in contributions for the Back Page, including math in the news or ads, or funny very short stories from around your department. Whenever possible, include high resolution graphics (with written permissions for the AMS to reproduce them). Above all, be interesting.

Institutions are invited to send illustrated short blurbs on upcoming events of special interest. Other publications are invited to send short blurbs on their articles of special interest to our readers for consideration for simultaneous publication.

Notices is freely available online, and you can have email notification of its posting, which occurs around the middle of the previous month, about when the hard copies are mailed out. The hard copy is a privilege of AMS membership.

Enjoy the issue. Send me your comments and suggestions to `Frank.Morgan@williams.edu`, or better, post them with the new Commentary Feature on our webpage `ams.org/notices`.