

# The Line

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## LUSZTIG ESTABLISHES CHEVALLEY PRIZE IN LIE THEORY

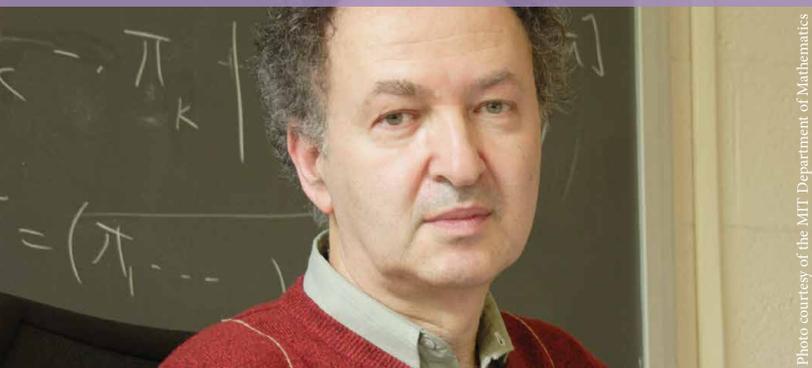
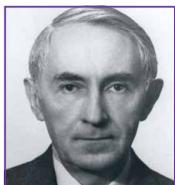


Photo courtesy of the MIT Department of Mathematics

Mathematicians who work in Lie theory have a new opportunity to be recognized for excellence in their work, thanks to the generosity and vision of George Lusztig, Abdun-Nur Professor of Mathematics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon receiving the prestigious Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences in 2014, Professor Lusztig directed a portion of his award to the American Mathematical Society, for the purpose of establishing the Chevalley Prize in Lie Theory.



Claude Chevalley

Photo Courtesy of  
Archives de l'Académie  
des Sciences - Institut de  
France

Claude Chevalley (1909-1984), the French mathematician who penned classic texts on Lie theory, was Lusztig's inspiration for the prize because, although he had never met him, "I have a particular affinity (and great admiration) for Chevalley since his work on semisimple groups over algebraically closed fields and finite fields provided a foundation for my own work. In addition Chevalley has a connection to AMS (as a winner of the Cole Prize) which makes it even more appropriate to have an AMS prize honoring him," shared Professor Lusztig. Along with establishing the

Chevalley Prize, Professor Lusztig also supplemented the endowments for the Cole Prize in Number Theory, which Chevalley won in 1941 and the Cole Prize in Algebra, received by Lusztig himself in 1985.

When asked what advances he anticipates in Lie theory, Professor Lusztig replied, "It is very difficult to predict the future of anything. But I hope that the character theory of  $p$ -adic groups will be better understood (maybe in terms of appropriate character sheaves) and that the character sheaves on symmetric spaces will be better understood."

The AMS looks forward to celebrating past, present and future scholars by way of the Chevalley Prize in Lie Theory and the generosity of Professor Lusztig.

*The first Chevalley Prize will be awarded in 2016. Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2015. Full information can be found at [www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/chevalley-prize](http://www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/chevalley-prize)*

## KATHLEEN "KITTY" BAXTER SUPPORTS MATHEMATICS WITH ESTATE GIFT

Kathleen "Kitty" Baxter (1923-2012) is continuing to support mathematical research and scholarship by way of her generous estate gift to the AMS.



Kathleen Baxter in 1941

Kitty was an outstanding student in high school and declared her ambition to be a physicist and mathematician while still a teenager. She earned her Ph.D. in 1959 at the University of California Berkeley, under Abraham Seidenberg. With doctoral degree in hand, she proceeded to Seattle, WA with her husband at the time, fellow mathematician Edward Scott O'Keefe, and she began work at University of Washington's Department of Mathematics. That same year she joined the AMS and would retain that membership throughout her life.

During her 26 years at UW, Professor Baxter taught classes, published academically and advised students. Friends and colleagues remember her as well-liked and "a great lady". A private woman, she loved the opera, swam every morning, and was known to drive a blue sports car. The "Kitty Baxter Effect" became a phrase in the department, when people noticed it never rained at picnics if Kitty attended – a feat in rainy Seattle.

Professor Baxter's commitment to the AMS was conveyed through her long-time membership and personal philanthropy. When the Thomas S. Fiske Society was established in 1995, she became one of its earliest members. As a result of her thoughtful planning, Kitty's legacy is now realized and she takes her place among the Society's benefactors.

*Thank you!*

EVERY DONOR HELPS MATHEMATICS

Thank you to everyone who donated to the American Mathematical Society in 2014! The Society is honored to receive your charitable contributions and to be the steward of your generosity in advancing the mathematical sciences. You will find the full listing of donors in the Contributors Report that appears in the May 2015 Notices.



## AN EXPONENTIALLY PRESIDENTIAL MOMENT



AMS Executive Director Donald E. McClure's Reception at the 2015 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Antonio saw a convergence of presidents, from both the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. Photographed from left: Francis Su, George Andrews, David Vogán, Robert Bryant, Bob Devaney, David Bressoud, Eric Friedlander, and Hyman Bass.

## MATHEMATICAL LIVES

### Virginia Halmos (1915-2015)

As someone who studied logic and mathematics at the graduate level and who had a deep love of literature, it made sense that Virginia Halmos, along with her husband, respected mathematician Paul Halmos, endowed and named the Joseph L. Doob Prize to honor "the highest standards of research exposition" in making seminal contributions to mathematics research. Virginia Halmos died January 19, 2015, but shortly before her passing, she made a final gift to the AMS to supplement the endowment for the Doob Prize. Originally known as "The Book Prize" prior to the Halmos' 2005 gift, it stands as a fitting memory to Virginia and Paul and to Joseph L. Doob.

### Donald W. Kahn (1935-2015)

String quartets, chamber music, photography and mathematics—Donald W. Kahn explored many of his passions in great depth. A Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota who passed away on January 16, 2015, Professor Kahn was a researcher in algebraic topology, authoring well-received books on topology and global analysis. He was also known for his exceptional musicianship, photography and ability to tell a great story. Professor Kahn, a member of the AMS for 56 years, along with his wife, Dr. Phyllis Kahn, were longtime generous supporters of the American Mathematical Society, giving special focus to the Centennial Fellowship fund. We are thankful for their dedicated support of the mathematics research environment.

## GRANT RECIPIENTS THANK SIMONS AT EINSTEIN LECTURE

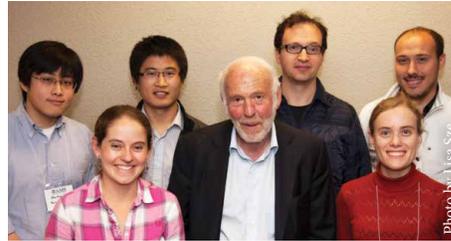


Photo by Lisa Sze

AMS-Simons Travel Grant recipients capture a moment with Jim Simons. From left: Haotian Wu, Angelica Osorno, Yu Shen Lin, James H. Simons, Marius Beceanu, Anna Marie Bohmann, Paolo Mantero.

James H. Simons, chair of the Simons Foundation, and board chair and founder of Renaissance Technologies, presented the AMS Einstein Public Lecture in Mathematics at the 2014 Fall Western Sectional at SFSU. While there, Dr. Simons met some early-career mathematicians who have benefitted from AMS-Simons Travel Grants.

The scholars were able to personally thank Dr. Simons for the support he and his wife, Dr. Marilyn Simons, have provided via these grants, which facilitate research efforts at a crucial juncture of their careers.

*Support for the annual Einstein Lectures comes from an endowed fund created by a generous donor.*



Jim Simons addresses an attentive audience at the 2014 AMS Einstein Public Lecture in Mathematics.

## YOUR GIFT BUILDS GRAD STUDENT CONNECTIONS

Your gift to AMS Graduate Student Chapters made good things possible in 2014. Some chapters purchased textbooks, and others hosted speakers or cross-disciplinary events. The Texas A&M chapter used their funds to a great effect. Here's what they reported:



Officers of Texas A&M AMS Graduate Student Chapter. From left, Lauren Grimley, Kaitlyn Phillipson, Philip Hoskins, Cameron Farnsworth, and Sean Plummer

"The math department has been split into two buildings for many years at Texas A&M; the applied and pure departments were separated. This past April, the pure math department moved into the applied math

(Continued next page.)



A Meeting of the Texas A&amp;M AMS Grad Student Chapter

building, finally unifying the department. We decided to host two teas (referred to as “Cookie Breaks”) to bring together all the graduate students and professors. Our advisor was instrumental in encouraging professors to attend the Cookie Breaks. They were a huge success; we had over 50 people attend each Cookie Break. Encouraged by the success, the Department Chair has promised to use department funds to help support regular Cookie Breaks next year.”

Congratulations, Texas A&M Grad Student Chapter, and thank you to all who gave!

## DONORS HELP SECURE FUTURE OF ARNOLD ROSS LECTURES



2013 Arnold Ross Lecturer Eric Demaine with students

Donors are helping to realize a goal of the late mathematics scholar and educator, Professor Paul J. Sally, Jr. (1933-2013) by contributing to the Arnold Ross Lectures endowed fund. This lecture series, named for esteemed mathematics educator Arnold Ross, brings top mathematics scholars to talented high school students to present mathematical research and potential career opportunities to the students. The lectures were founded in the late 1980s; in 1996 Professor Sally established an endowed fund at the AMS to support the lectures in perpetuity. He contributed to the fund over time and came close to reaching his personal goal of \$100,000 in endowment before his passing.

To complete this goal, the AMS created a special fundraising campaign. Over \$18,000 has been raised to date and the fund stands just \$11,500 shy of Professor Sally’s goal. If you would like to help complete the goal, visit [www.ams.org/support](http://www.ams.org/support). Everyone’s support is appreciated!

## FISKE SOCIETY MEMBER HELPS NEXT GENERATIONS

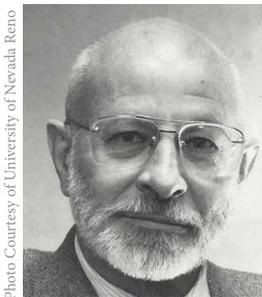


Photo Courtesy of University of Nevada Reno

Trevor James McMinn

Trevor James McMinn had already been an AMS member for 42 years when he made provision for the Society in his estate plan. He told the AMS about his gift intention and became a member of our Thomas S. Fiske Society. At that time, McMinn was Professor Emeritus at the University of Nevada in Reno, having retired in 1988. He enjoyed nature as a hiker and skier, was an avid traveler, and regularly spent time with friends.

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Professor McMinn served as a civilian employee of the Navy in WWII, later earning his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley under Anthony Perry Morse in 1955. He proceeded to the University of Washington for six years prior to joining the faculty at UNR.

When Trevor McMinn passed away on November 4, 2013, people close to him described him as a true gentleman and someone who was loved by many. He will always be remembered at the AMS as a committed professional whose legacy affirms his love of mathematics.

## MATHEMATICAL HERITAGE EXTENDS FORWARD

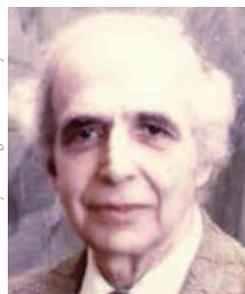


Photo Courtesy of Rutgers University

Richard M. Cohn

The year 1947 was an important one for Richard M. Cohn. In that year, he completed his dissertation on Manifolds of Difference Polynomials at Columbia University under the direction of Joseph Ritt, and he was invited to become one of 14 faculty members at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. Professor Cohn went on to enjoy a 43-year research career that focused on differential algebra. He was a member of the Rutgers Graduate Faculty and advised seven doctoral students. When Professor Cohn retired in 1990, the faculty had grown six-fold from the time of his arrival in 1947. He remained as Professor Emeritus of Mathematics until his death on June 17, 2014.

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Professor Cohn maintained an active membership in the AMS for a remarkable 73 years. As a contributing member, he made annual donations to the Society. He also made a bequest to the AMS in his will. Richard M. Cohn’s legacy will be remembered and recognized through the Thomas S. Fiske Society.



# AMS

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

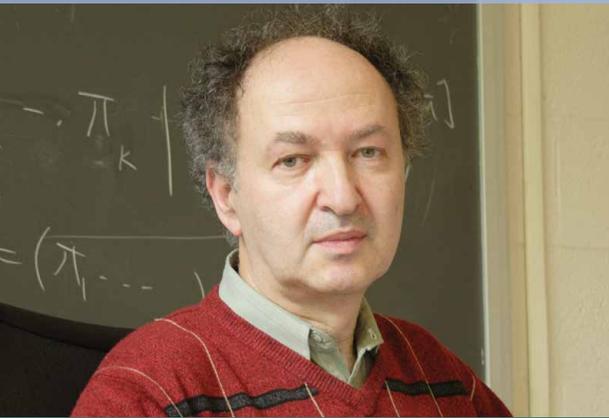
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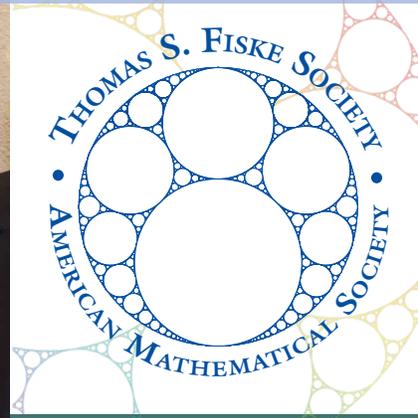
LUSZTIG ESTABLISHES  
CHEVALLEY PRIZE



A CHANCE TO SAY THANK YOU



CREATING A LEGACY



Robin Marek,  
Director of  
Development



Nancy Hoffman,  
Development  
Assistant

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