Inside the AMS

Erica Flapan Named Next Notices Editor in Chief

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Erica Flapan, the Lingurn H. Burkhead Professor in the Department of Mathematics at Pomona College, as Editor in Chief of Notices of the AMS for the three-year term commencing January 1, 2019.

With a PhD from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Erica started her career as a G. C. Evans Instructor at Rice University and then as a Visiting Assistant Professor at UC Santa Barbara before joining the faculty at Pomona College. She has received multiple national awards and honors, including being named an inaugural Fellow of the AMS and a Polya Lecturer for the Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

“It is a great honor to have been selected to be the new Editor in Chief of Notices,” says Erica.

“As editor, I hope to serve the AMS membership by presenting expository articles about important mathematical developments that are accessible to mathematicians with a broad range of backgrounds. However, my goals for Notices go beyond this to bring together mathematicians with diverse interests into a single mathematical community with a shared sense of connection to the AMS. To achieve this, I would like to not only present interesting mathematics, but also highlight the relationship between mathematics and society, from the teaching of mathematics at all levels, to how politics is impacting mathematics, to the misuse of mathematics. While continuing its tradition of providing important information on the state of the profession and announcements of upcoming meetings and opportunities, I hope that under my leadership Notices can be a useful source of career information for young mathematicians. Finally, I envision Notices giving a public face to the world of mathematics, so that those on the outside can get a glimpse into what mathematics research is and why it is important for science, technology, and everyday life. Becoming the new Editor in Chief of Notices is a great opportunity, and I hope I can live up to the expectations of the AMS membership.”

—AMS Announcement

Drawing Voting Districts and Partisan Gerrymandering: Preparing for 2020

AMS Council Endorses Statement on Gerrymandering

At its most recent meeting, on the Tuesday before the January Joint Meetings, the AMS Council endorsed a Statement on Gerrymandering; the AMS Committee on Science Policy brought the statement to the Council with a recommendation to endorse. A small team of experts drawn from the membership of the AMS, together with colleagues from the American Statistical Association, wrote the statement.

Increasingly, courts appeal to mathematical and statistical approaches in their deliberations on partisan gerrymandering cases, and AMS and ASA members are being called as witnesses. These cases include the U.S. Supreme Court case Gill v. Whitford and those recently considered in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. As this is happening, and as the country is gearing up for the 2020 Census and subsequent redistricting, the joint statement positions mathematics and the statistical sciences in the national discussion on redistricting.

In response to the passage of the statement, AMS President Ken Ribet noted, “our community is poised to play a central role in ongoing discussions about methods for creating voting districts and the evaluation of existing and proposed district maps. It has been a pleasure for me to observe the recent explosion in interest in this topic among colleagues and students. I anticipate that the new statement by the ASA and AMS Council will lead to increasing transparency in the evaluation of districting methods.”


—AMS Washington Office

Erica Flapan
From the AMS Public Awareness Office

2018 Mathematical Art Exhibition Awards were made at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in January. The three chosen works were selected from the exhibition of juried works in various media by over eighty mathematicians and artists from around the world. “A Gooseberry/Fibonacci Spiral” by Frank A. Farris was awarded Best Photograph, Painting, or Print (see photo); “Dodecahedral 11-Hole Torus” by David Honda was awarded Best Textile, Sculpture, or Other Medium; and “Excentrica” by Ekaterina Lukasheva received Honorable Mention. The Mathematical Art Exhibition Award “for aesthetically pleasing works that combine mathematics and art” was established in 2008 through an endowment provided to the American Mathematical Society by an anonymous donor who wishes to acknowledge those whose works demonstrate the beauty and elegance of mathematics expressed in a visual art form. The awards are $400 for Best Photograph, Painting, or Print; $400 for Best Textile, Sculpture, or Other Medium; and $200 for Honorable Mention. The Mathematical Art Exhibition of juried works in various media is held at the annual Joint Mathematics Meetings of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and Mathematical Association of America (MAA).

Who Wants to Be a Mathematician Championship

Samuel Goodman, an eighth grader from Las Vegas, became the youngest Who Wants to Be a Mathematician champion ever. Samuel, one of twelve contestants from the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada, won $5,000 for himself and $5,000 for his school’s mathematics department on the final day of the 2018 Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego. Read more about the game and see photos of all the action at [www.ams.org/jmm2018](http://www.ams.org/jmm2018).

—AMS Public Awareness Office

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