

Community Updates

Departments Coordinate Job Offer Deadlines

For the past twenty-one years, the American Mathematical Society has led the effort to gain broad endorsement for the following proposal:

That mathematics departments and institutes agree not to require a response prior to a certain date (usually around February 1 of a given year) to an offer of a postdoctoral position that begins in the fall of that year.

This proposal is linked to an agreement made by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that the recipients of the NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowships would be notified of their awards, at the latest, by the end of January.

This agreement ensures that our young colleagues entering the postdoctoral job market have as much information as possible about their options before making a decision. It also allows departmental hiring committees adequate time to review application files and make informed decisions. From our perspective, this agreement has worked well and has made the process more orderly. There have been very few negative comments. Last year, more than 180 mathematics and applied mathematics departments and institutes endorsed the agreement.

Therefore, we propose that mathematics departments again collectively enter into the same agreement for the upcoming cycle of recruiting, with the deadline set for **Monday, February 1, 2021**. The NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences has already agreed that it will complete its review of applications and electronically notify all applicants no later than **Friday, January 22, 2021**.

The American Mathematical Society facilitated the process by sending an email message to all doctoral-granting mathematics and applied mathematics departments and mathematics institutes. The list of departments and institutes endorsing this agreement was widely announced on the AMS website beginning November 1, 2020, and is updated weekly until mid-January.

We ask that you view this year's formal agreement at <https://www.ams.org/employment/postdoc-offers.html>, along with **this year's list** of adhering departments.

Important: To streamline this year's process for all involved, we ask that you notify Dr. Torina Lewis at the AMS (postdoc-deadline@ams.org) **if and only if:**

(1) your department is not listed and you would like to be listed as part of the agreement;

or

(2) your department is listed and you would like to withdraw from the agreement and be removed from the list.

Please feel free to email us with questions and concerns. Thank you for consideration of the proposal.

—Catherine A. Roberts
AMS Executive Director

Torina Lewis
AMS Associate Executive Director

AMS Congressional Fellow Announced



Rachel Levy

The 2020–2021 AMS Congressional Fellowship has been awarded to **Rachel Levy**. Levy received her PhD in applied mathematics from North Carolina State University. Most recently, she served as the Deputy Executive Director of the Mathematical Association of America. Prior to that, she was a Professor of Mathematics and Associate Dean for Faculty Development at Harvey Mudd College.

Levy has been an active member of the mathematics community through her many roles at the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences (CBMS), Mathematical Association of America (MAA), Transforming Post-Secondary Education in Math (TPSE), Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). She is an award-winning writer and cofounder of both the Business Industry and Government Mathematics Network and the Math Modeling Hub. Her career-focused book and interview card game have helped both students

and faculty transition from academia to industry, and her blogging has led to media appearances in venues such as *Ed Week*, *Slate*, NPR, and even Australian Radio.

The Congressional Fellowship program is administered by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and provides an opportunity for scientists and engineers to learn about federal policy making while contributing their knowledge and analytical skills to the process. Fellows spend a year working on the staff of a member of Congress or a congressional committee, working 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 professional development program.

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.

For more information on the AMS Congressional Fellowship, see <https://bit.ly/2X5Yi3D>.

—Anita Benjamin
AMS Office of Government Relations

Weekes Named SIAM Executive Director



Suzanne L. Weekes

The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) has named **Suzanne L. Weekes** of Worcester Polytechnic Institute its new executive director. Weekes is currently Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies (interim) and Professor of Mathematical Sciences at WPI. She will begin her appointment on January 1, 2021, succeeding James M. Crowley.

Weekes earned her BA in mathematics in 1989 from Indiana University and her PhD in mathematics and scientific computing from the University of Michigan in 1995. She did postdoctoral work at Texas A&M University. Her research is in numerical methods for differential equations and computational fluid dynamics, including applications to spatiotemporal composites and cancer growth. Her work also focuses on initiatives connecting the academic mathematics community to mathematics and statistics work in business, industry, and government and on communities traditionally underrepresented in mathematics. She is a cofounder and codirector of the national Preparation for Industrial

Careers in Mathematical Sciences (PIC Math) Program and founding codirector of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute Undergraduate Program (MSRI-UP), which has helped a large number of women of color to continue their educations in graduate school. She is a recipient of the 2020 Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching and of the 2019 M. Gweneth Humphreys Award for Mentorship of Undergraduate Women of the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM).

Weekes is a member of the AMS Committee on Science Policy. Her service to SIAM includes the SIAM Council, the Science Policy Committee, the Education Committee (past chair), and the Task Force on Future Research Directions for NSF in the Era of COVID-19. She is an At-Large Member of the Executive Committee of the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and is a member of the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM).

—From a SIAM announcement

AMS Department Chairs Workshop

The annual workshop for department chairs will be held in a virtual format on Thursday, January 14, 2021, the week following the Joint Mathematics Meetings.

Workshop leaders will be Luca Capogna, Professor and Head, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Worcester Polytechnic Institute; Kevin Knudson, Professor and Chair, Department of Mathematics, University of Florida; and Jennifer Zhao, Professor and former Chair, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Like almost every aspect of society, higher education has been in a state of turmoil since the COVID-19 pandemic hit. The 2021 AMS Department Chairs Workshop will provide an opportunity to share experiences and reflect on what math department chairs, math departments, and colleges and universities are doing to react to the emergency. Some of the emerging issues have to do with resources, handling stress (students, staff, and faculty), and how to deliver our curriculum under new paradigms.

In an effort to best respond to the changing landscape due to the pandemic, topics for the workshop will be finalized in the weeks before the workshop. Registered participants will receive a short questionnaire in December about the demographics of their departments and about potential topics for discussion at the workshop.

The registration fee for the workshop is US\$50 for AMS members and US\$100 for non-members. If you are

interested in attending, please register online at <https://bit.ly/318aRGL> by **December 18, 2020**. For more information, please visit the department chairs workshop webpage at <https://www.ams.org/chairsworkshop2021> or email chairsworkshop@ams.org.

—Anita Benjamin
AMS Office of Government Relations

2021 Class of Fellows of the AMS Selected

A list of those who have been selected for the 2021 Class of Fellows of the AMS is now available on the AMS website. The list is located at <https://www.ams.org/profession/new-fellows>.

—AMS Programs Department

Deaths of AMS Members

UTPAL BANERJEE, of Fremont, California, died on August 1, 2017. Born on August 4, 1942, he was a member of the Society for 49 years.

VLADIMIR SHEPSELEVICH BOURD, of San Diego, California, died on June 17, 2017. Born on March 10, 1938, he was a member of the Society for 22 years.

CHAO PING CHANG, of Auckland, New Zealand, died on August 24, 2017. Born on January 11, 1923, he was a member of the Society for 53 years.

JOHN CLARK, of New Zealand, died on July 15, 2017. Born on October 4, 1943, he was a member of the Society for 44 years.

SPENCER E. DICKSON, of Ames, Iowa, died on July 1, 2017. Born on December 17, 1938, he was a member of the Society for 55 years.

JOE DIESTEL, professor, Kent State University, died on August 17, 2017. Born on January 27, 1943, he was a member of the Society for 30 years.

HIROSHI GUNJI, of Madison, Wisconsin, died on July 11, 2017. Born on June 14, 1928, he was a member of the Society for 58 years.

GUY JOHNSON JR., of Loveland, Colorado, died on August 30, 2017. Born on March 11, 1922, he was a member of the Society for 63 years.

NORMAN W. JOHNSON, of Norton, Massachusetts, died on July 13, 2017. Born on November 12, 1930, he was a member of the Society for 21 years.

RUSSELL A. JOHNSON, professor, University of Florence, died on July 22, 2017. Born on January 27, 1947, he was a member of the Society for 39 years.

JEAN-PIERRE KAHANE, of France, died on June 21, 2017. Born on December 11, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

FRANZ W. KAMBER, of Germany, died on June 13, 2017. Born on June 19, he was a member of the Society for 52 years.

WILLIAM C. LORDAN, of Calumet City, Illinois, died on June 26, 2017. Born on March 23, 1932, he was a member of the Society for 61 years.

WILLIAM S. MASSEY, of Hamden, Connecticut, died on June 17, 2017. Born on August 23, 1920, he was a member of the Society for 74 years.

UTA C. MERZBACH, of Georgetown, Texas, died on June 27, 2017. Born on February 9, 1933, she was a member of the Society for 42 years.

STEPHEN AMES MITCHELL, professor, University of Washington, died on August 17, 2017. Born on August 17, 1951, he was a member of the Society for 41 years.

CATHLEEN S. MORAWETZ, professor, New York University–Courant Institute, died on August 8, 2017. Born on May 5, 1923, she was a member of the Society for 67 years.

MARINA RATNER, professor, University of California, Berkeley, died on July 7, 2017. Born on October 30, 1938, she was a former member of the Society in 1975.

THOMAS L. SAATY, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, died on August 14, 2017. Born on July 18, 1926, he was a member of the Society for 64 years.

PRASANNA SAHOO, of Chengdu, China, died on June 18, 2017. Born on March 10, 1951, he was a member of the Society for 38 years.

RAINER SCHUMANN, of Germany, died on July 22, 2017. Born on April 6, 1953, he was a member of the Society for 25 years.

WILLIAM T SLEDD, of East Lansing, Michigan, died on July 6, 2017. Born on August 25, 1935, he was a member of the Society for 56 years.

ROMEO F. THOMAS, professor, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Prescott, died on June 19, 2017. Born on July 1, 1944, he was a member of the Society for 32 years.

HEINZ G. TILLMANN, of Munster, Germany, died on August 26, 2017. Born on January 1, 1958, he was a member of the Society for 59 years.

GERARD TRONEL, of France, died on August 25, 2017. Born on March 16, 1934, he was a member of the Society for 48 years.

FRANCIS H. VARINO, of Monroe, Louisiana, died on June 26, 2017. Born on May 5, 1931, he was a member of the Society for 27 years.

Credits

Photo of Rachel Levy is courtesy of Sam Kome.

Photo of Suzanne Weekes is courtesy of Worcester Polytechnic Institute.