MAA Awards Presented in San Diego

The Mathematical Association of America (MAA) presented a number of prizes and awards at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego in January 2002.

Beckenbach Book Prize

The Beckenbach Book Prize, named in honor of the late Edwin Beckenbach, is awarded for distinguished, innovative books published by the MAA.

The 2002 Beckenbach Book Prize was awarded to JOSEPH KIRTLAND for his book *Identification Numbers and Check Digit Schemes*, published in the MAA Classroom Resource Materials Series. "This book exploits a ubiquitous feature of daily life, identification numbers, to develop a variety of mathematical ideas, such as modular arithmetic, functions, permutations, groups, and symmetries," the citation states, concluding that this book is "an outstanding, distinguished, and innovative expository book." Kirtland is on the faculty of Marist College. He has been selected six times by the students for the Faculty Recognition Award in the School of Computer Science and Mathematics. In the fall of 2000, he was presented with the Board of Trustees' Distinguished Teaching Award.

Chauvenet Prize

The Chauvenet Prize, first awarded to Gilbert Bliss in 1925, is presented for an outstanding expository article on a mathematical topic by a member of the MAA. The prize is named in honor of William Chauvenet, a professor of mathematics at the U.S. Naval Academy.

The 2002 Chauvenet Prize was awarded to ELLEN GETHNER, STAN WAGON, and BRIAN WICK for their paper "A Stroll through the Gaussian primes" (*American Mathematical Monthly* **15** (4) 1998, 327–37).

The article describes the Gaussian moat problem concerning the distribution of the Gaussian primes in the complex plane. As the prize citation puts it, "If one uses the Gaussian primes as stepping stones, can one walk to infinity with steps of bounded length? It is a fascinating and still an unanswered question." The paper discusses the history and motivation of the problem in a "very accessible and pleasant style."

Ellen Gethner received her Ph.D. from Ohio University in 1992 and is in the final stages of another Ph.D. in theoretical computer science at the University of British Columbia. Stan Wagon is a professor of mathematics at Macalester College and the author of several expository books about mathematics. Brian Wick is a professor at the University of Alaska at Anchorage, where he helped to develop the baccalaureate degree in mathematics.

Haimo Award

The Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Awards for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics, established in 1991, honors college or university teachers who have been widely recognized as extraordinarily successful and whose teaching effectiveness has had influence beyond their own institutions.

The 2002 Haimo Award was presented to DENNIS DETURCK, PAUL J. SALLY JR., and EDWARD SPITZNAGEL JR.

Dennis DeTurck has had "a distinguished career of dedication to the improvement of teaching and learning of mathematics and science," the citation states. "A charismatic classroom teacher who

inspires students at all levels to learn and to love the subject, DeTurck is also a talented innovator who has created a variety of programs to enhance teaching." He was the founding director of the Middle Atlantic Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications Throughout the Curriculum and now directs the Access Science program that connects the science and engineering departments of the University of Pennsylvania with K–12 public schools in West Philadelphia. DeTurck chairs the mathematics department at the University of Pennsylvania and is the Davidson Kennedy Professor.

"Paul Sally is a highly respected research mathematician who is enormously committed to the cause of education and excellence at all levels," the citation says. "In the past forty years, his superb classroom teaching and his long-range educational programs have affected thousands of students and teachers from the elementary grades to the Ph.D." As a professor at the University of Chicago, Sally founded the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project and a Young Scholars Program. He also launched SESAME (Seminars for Endorsement of Science and Mathematics Educators), a staff development program for elementary school teachers from Chicago public schools. Recognized for the excellence of his undergraduate teaching, Sally has coached the university's Putnam team and helped to start a mathematics club.

Edward Spitznagel was honored for "his extraordinary success in applying his vast practical experience and great enthusiasm to the classroom." His lively lectures are regularly oversubscribed and feature applications of statistics to many other fields. He collaborates with investigators in such fields as medicine, pharmacology, marketing, engineering, and psychology. "His breadth of scholarship and his feeling for the practical find immediate application to his teaching," the citation states. He is on the faculty of Washington University with a joint appointment in the Department of Mathematics and in the Division of Biostatistics in the Washington University School of Medicine. He has received ten awards for teaching.

Certificates of Meritorious Service

Each year the MAA presents Certificates for Meritorious Service to a section of the MAA. Those honored in 2002 are: VIVIAN DENNIS-MONZINGO of Eastfield College, Texas Section; RICHARD A. GIBBS of Fort Lewis College, Mountain Section; DENNIS LUCIANO of Western New England College, Northeastern Section; JOHN W. PETRO of Western Michigan University, Michigan Section; CYNTHIA J. WOODBURN of Pittsburg State University, Kansas Section; and FREDRIC ZERLA of the University of South Florida, Florida Section.

—*From MAA announcements*