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.

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.

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.

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.